

## Challenger prepares to land

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (AP) — Five U.S. astronauts got Challenger ready to wind up the first Florida-to-Florida space flight, heading for a dawn landing Saturday on the world's longest paved runway. If the weather remains good, the shuttle will land at the Kennedy Space Centre at 7:06 a.m. (11:06 GMT), heralded by a sonic boom expected to be heard over most of Florida. Challenger will fire its braking rocket over the Indian Ocean west of Australia, its supersonic glide taking it across California and a bit Texas, south of Houston and across the Mississippi delta south of New Orleans. The touchdown on Runway 15, a 4,572 metre strip of concrete, will deposit the shuttle just over six kilometres from the launch pad where it began its voyage on Feb. 3.

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# Jordan Times

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جوردان تايمز: جريدة سياسية مستقلة المنشورة من قبل مؤسسة الصحافة الأردنية "الراي"

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## Arab League regrets U.S. bombardments

TUNIS (AP) — The Arab League on Friday expressed its "regret" and "indignation" over heavy naval bombardments by U.S. warships off the coast of Lebanon. "These bombardments, which have caused numerous victims among innocent civilians, have made the situation more complex and created obstacles to efforts to resolve the Lebanese crisis," said a communique issued from the league's headquarters in Tunis.

## U.S. to investigate MNF major's death

WASHINGTON (R) — The Pentagon said Thursday it was investigating the death of a U.S. Marine major found shot dead in his quarters in the compound of the U.S. Multi-National Force (MNF) at Beirut airport. He was named as Alfred Butler, 33, and was the U.S. Marine liaison officer to the Lebanese armed forces. The Pentagon said Major Butler was found with a single gunshot wound in the chest Wednesday.

## Israel, E. Germany clash in Geneva

GENEVA (AP) — An Israeli claim that the chief delegate of communist East Germany, Hermann Klenner, was an ex-Nazi triggered a verbal clash at Friday's meeting of the United Nations Human Rights Commission. Commenting on Mr. Klenner's statement accusing Israel earlier this week of a "policy of terror" in the occupied Arab territories, Israeli Ambassador Elzaim Doweik said the East German held a Nazi party membership card in 1944. In a brief retort, Mr. Klenner rose to "categorically reject this slander taken from a reactionary paper." He did not elaborate.

## Syria declares 7-day mourning

DAMASCUS (AP) — Syria, the Soviet Union's closest ally in the Middle East, declared seven days of official mourning Friday on the death of Soviet President Yuri Andropov. President Hafez Al Assad cabled the Soviet leadership praising Mr. Andropov as "a distinguished statesman who contributed personally to improving Syrian-Soviet relations in all fields," said an official announcement.

## Delhi train crash kills 43, injures 48

NEW DELHI (AP) — A commuter shuttle overshot two signals and plowed into the back of a standing train that had stopped unexpectedly just west of here Friday, killing at least 43 people and injuring 48, officials said. The driver of the New Delhi-bound commuter train fled the scene to avoid being attacked by mobs of passengers and onlookers.

## Bomb damages Turkish consulate

COLOGNE, West Germany (AP) — A bomb tore through the Turkish consulate early Friday, causing moderate damage but no injuries in the latest in a series of attacks against Turkish targets, police said. No one claimed responsibility for the attack at the consulate in Cologne.

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## Soviet leader dies after 5 months of public absence

# Andropov passes away

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Yuri V. Andropov, Soviet Communist Party General Secretary and president of the praesidium of the Supreme Soviet, died Thursday, the government announced Friday.

Mr. Andropov, 69, who took over the Soviet leadership in November 1982 following the death of President Leonid Brezhnev, was last seen in public in August 1983. He was believed to be seriously ill and conflicting reports surrounded the nature of his illness.

Mr. Andropov succeeded Mr. Brezhnev almost exactly 15 months ago. Mr. Brezhnev died on Nov. 4, 1982, and was buried in the hallowed ground of Red Square five days later. Meanwhile, Mr. Andropov was named to the post of general secretary of the 18-million-member Soviet Communist Party.

He became president of the Soviet Union in June, 1983, making him the nominal head of state. The former KGB secret police chief came into office with promises to boost the Soviet economy, clean out corrupt bureaucrats, work to decrease world tensions, and usher a new generation into the leadership of the Soviet Union.

But Mr. Andropov's brief tenure ended without giving him a chance to get his changes past their initial phases.

Mr. Andropov was born June 15, 1914, in the Stavropol village of Nagutskaya station, to the fam-

ily of a railroad worker. He began rising in the party ranks during the first tumultuous years after Josef Stalin died.

He drew the attention of the Soviet leadership for the first time in the early 1950s — the politically tumultuous days after Stalin died.

Aided by gaps in bureaucracy left by Stalin's purges, Mr. Andropov rose and was sent to Budapest as a diplomat. In 1954, he became ambassador to Hungary and played a key role in the Soviet suppression of the 1956 Hungarian revolt.

Mr. Andropov was brought back to Moscow a year later and rewarded with the job of department head of the party apparatus dealing with parties in Eastern Europe.

Some analysts say the party credited Mr. Andropov with a consolidation of Soviet influence among the Eastern European satellites and he began moving upward in the top echelons of the party.

In 1961, he became a full Central Committee member without going through the usual candidate membership.

Six years later, Stalin's daughter, Svetlana, defected and secret police chief Vladimir Sem-



Soviet leader Yuri Andropov (1914-1984)

ichastny was demoted.

Mr. Andropov was believed to have become a Brezhnev protégé soon after the 1964 ouster of Nikita S. Khrushchev. It was Mr. Brezhnev who was said to have made Mr. Andropov KGB head and then gave him full Politburo membership in 1973.

In May 1982, Mr. Andropov left the KGB and took a post on the Central Committee Secretariat — a move considered necessary to get into the line of succession.

Between May and November, 1982, Mr. Andropov is said to have fought a political battle with Konstantin U. Chernenko, a fel-

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## Speculation surrounds possible Andropov successor

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Soviet leader Yuri Andropov, whose death was announced here Friday, left no clear successor to head the Soviet Union, but speculation focused on three members of the ruling Politburo.

They are Grigory Romanov, 61, former chief of the Leningrad party, Mikhail Gorbachov, 52, regarded as the member closest to Mr. Andropov, and Konstantin Chernenko, 72, a close associate of Mr. Brezhnev.

Diplomats said the succession could depend on a struggle between rival factions representing Mr. Andropov's supporters and an old guard of Mr. Brezhnev men gathered round Mr. Chernenko.

The first clue to the outcome could come with the ann-

ouncement of the funeral. Mr. Andropov, who for 15 years headed the KGB security committee, was named chairman of Mr. Brezhnev's funeral commission hours after the death was announced.

The chief contender is Mr. Gorbachov, regarded by diplomats as the favourite, provided the Andropov group overcomes opposition from the older Brezhnev era appointees regarded as representing entrenched party interests.

At 52, Mr. Gorbachov is the youngest member of the leadership. He took charge of agriculture after joining the Politburo in 1981 and was given wide powers by Mr. Andropov to oversee a shake-up in the economy.

Reliable Soviet sources say he

has been acting as Mr. Andropov's main intermediary with the Politburo during his illness.

Mr. Romanov, at 61 still relatively young, has a reputation as a tough hard-liner, established during 13 years as party boss in Leningrad.

Another possible scenario is a political deadlock in which a neutral, interim leader would take charge while rival factions battle it out behind the scenes for ultimate control.

If this were the case, most analysts believe Defence Minister Dmitry Ustinov, 75, would be likely to emerge as the favoured candidate.

"In effect the question of the succession is more open than it has been since the death of Stalin in

1953," one diplomat said. "Gorbachov and Romanov may be the favourites, but almost anything is possible."

Apart from the most prominent names, there are other members of the Politburo who could conceivably secure the post as party leader, possibly as compromise candidates.

Foremost among them is Geidar Aliyev, 60, former Communist Party chief in Azerbaijan who was brought into the Politburo by Mr. Andropov in November 1982.

Mr. Aliyev is known as a highly able administrator and was selected to make an important visit to Syria in the coming week, a trip which is now likely to be postponed.

## World leaders regret Soviet president's death

LONDON (R) — World leaders Friday expressed regret at the death of Soviet leader Yuri Andropov and concern that it came at a time of high East-West tension.

President Reagan was awakened before dawn at his California ranch with the news from Moscow, Washington was preparing a formal statement.

There were no indications that Mr. Reagan, who had never met Mr. Andropov, would go to Moscow for the funeral.

West German politicians stressed the need for continued East-West dialogue in what Chancellor Helmut Kohl described as "difficult times."

Bonn's foreign minister, Hans-Dietrich Genscher, said in a telegram to Moscow that West Germany wanted to "continue and... deepen co-operation and dialogue between our two countries in the interests of peace in Europe and the world."

A spokesman for British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, whose visit to Hungary last week was seen as a possible prelude to a trip to Moscow, said the loss of Mr. Andropov would be widely felt.

A statement by Belgian Prime Minister Wilfried Martens noted that Mr. Andropov's time in office had been marked by strong ten-

sions between the power blocs, while in Athens, Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu remarked: "I think the transition period will be brief because this came at a time of difficult East-West relations."

Western leaders referred to the uncertainties that had been created by Mr. Andropov's long illness. He had not appeared in public for almost six months.

Danish Foreign Minister Uffe Ellemann-Jensen said: "His last long months of sickness complicated the decision-making process in Moscow and contributed to the deadlock of the Geneva arms control talks."

Spain's Socialist government said in a statement of regret that it hoped Soviet leaders would maintain and extend their contribution to world peace.

Other western officials expressed concern that Mr. Andropov's death could quash hopes of an early thaw in superpower relations.

NATO officials in Brussels noted that Soviet attitudes tended to harden during periods of transition, since no member of the leadership would risk his political future by suggesting concessions to the West.

(Continued on page 3)

## Mubarak to urge U.S. to avoid clash with Syria

CAIRO (AP) — Alarmed over the deteriorating situation in Beirut, President Hosni Mubarak will try to dissuade the United States from deeper military involvement in Lebanon and a full-scale clash with Syria during talks with President Reagan in Washington.

Before flying to Washington on Saturday, Mr. Mubarak will also confer with President Francois Mitterrand in hopes of reviving a joint French-Egyptian Middle East peace plan aimed at preventing a complete breakdown of the peace process.

### Call for 'self-restraint'

In its first public comment on the Lebanese problem, Egypt appealed to all parties in the conflict to exercise "self-restraint" and avoid the use of force.

The call, made in a government statement, appeared aimed equally at the warring Lebanese fac-

tions as well as the United States, Israel, Syria and other foreign powers.

U.S. warships off the Lebanese coast shelled military positions in Syrian-controlled Lebanese territory Wednesday and Thursday.

Beyond blaming the Lebanese crisis basically on the 1982 invasion by Israel, the statement did not name any of the other powers involved.

"Egypt calls on all parties to the conflict to exercise self-restraint and observe the supreme interests of the (Lebanese) homeland," the statement said.

"It appeals to these parties to co-operate in finding an acceptable formula for co-existence in a unified Lebanon."

The statement, distributed by the government's Middle East News Agency, expressed "deep concern and grief" at the latest deterioration in Lebanon and recalled previous Egyptian sta-

tements "warning against the consequences of the use of force in the region."

### Warning against Israel

In a commentary published Friday by the government-owned newspaper Al-Ahram, chief editor Ibrahim Nafeh, who is accompanying Mr. Mubarak on his travels to Morocco, France and the United States, warned of fears "that Israel might try to drag the USA into an operation against Syria as a first application of the American-Israeli strategic agreement or to cover up the present failure" in Lebanon.

"If this happens, it would be a new setback for the United States in the Middle East region," said Mr. Nafeh, who is close to Mr. Mubarak.

"The United States is supposed now to be fully convinced that dangers have grown larger and she

is called upon to confront these dangers before they get completely out of hand, especially since America's position in Lebanon has helped either consciously or unconsciously to draw closer the actual partition of Lebanon."

The matter, in the final analysis, is America's failure to protect legitimacy in Lebanon by her military withdrawal, just as she failed politically to confront the problem with clear vision without any bias to any of the parties involved.

Western and Egyptian observers have pointed out privately that the crisis in Lebanon presents a complex dilemma to the Egyptians.

On the one hand, Cairo has no interest in seeing Syria emerge as the new strongman of the Middle East at a time when the Egyptians are working diplomatically to restore their own leadership in the

## Israeli jets attack Bhamdoun

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Israeli jets attacked targets on a Syrian-held mountain ridge east of Beirut Friday, the state radio said, as American and European nationals were evacuating the war-ravaged Lebanese capital.

Between 10 and 12 Israeli jets bombed and strafed military positions in and around the central mountain town of Bhamdoun on the Beirut-Damascus highway at 1215 p.m. (1015 GMT), setting off several fires, the radio said.

It said the air strike was an apparent retaliation for the firing of three Katyusha rockets into northern Israel from southern Lebanon.

The "Voice of the Mountain" radio station of Syrian-backed opposition leader Walid Junblatt's Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) also reported the air raid and said (PSP) were firing ground-to-air missiles on the attacking jets.

An Israeli spokesman in Tel Aviv said Israeli jets bombed two buildings used as staging points for attacks against Israeli forces and

also hit several artillery pieces. A Reuters correspondent on a rooftop in central Beirut said, black smoke billowing up from the mountains overlooking the city as the roar of planes filled the air.

Puffs of smoke from anti-aircraft fire dotted the sky.

Beirut Radio and the PSP radio said the planes were bombing targets around the town of Bhamdoun. The town is an area controlled by Syrian-backed PSP militias.

Bhamdoun was one of the targets when Israeli planes last bombed Lebanon on Jan. 3 and 4.

In raids then, Israeli planes hit Syrian army and Palestinian positions near Bhamdoun and areas near the eastern town of Baalbek, where Shi'ite militias and Iranian Revolutionary Guards are based.

Military sources said the attack, coming at this time, could also be considered assistance to the besieged Lebanese government of President Amin Gemayel.

The United States' decision to increase its firepower against oppo-

sition militia forces in Lebanon could also be considered a factor in the timing of the attack.

### Metullah shelled

Settlers in the Northern Israeli border town of Metullah took to their shelters again for the first time since shortly after the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in June 1982.

A volley of Katyusha rockets fired from Lebanon struck Metullah Thursday with two of the 107-mm shells exploding in the centre of the town.

Nobody was hurt, and life quickly returned to normal, but the attack came as a surprise after 20 months of quiet.

Former Prime Minister Menachem Begin had promised his "peace for Galilee" operation in Lebanon would put an end to Palestinian operations aimed at Israel's northern settlements.

On Thursday night flares dropped from army helicopter lit up the border area to help patrols search for the attackers.

## Militias watch as foreigners quit Beirut

BEIRUT (R) — Britons, Americans and other evacuees were lifted out of Beirut Friday, watched by militiamen from an armoured personnel carrier.

"I don't want to go home," a British woman said just before she got into a Sea King helicopter with her two children. "This is my home now. But I can't go through another week of what we've just gone through."

She told of gun battles outside her flat this week, of having been stranded under a shoot-on-sight curfew during shelling, of rocket attacks near her home and days of sniper fire from the gunmen who seized West Beirut.

A student in a group of 55 Cypriots from the American University of Beirut said one dormitory was hit 16 times this week.

He was one of hundreds of Britons and Commonwealth citizens the British were flying out of west Beirut or taking by sea.

The U.S. embassy said Thursday it was not yet necessary for Americans to leave, but Friday it announced through the British Broadcasting Corporation that U.S. civilians should gather on the seafloor to be flown out.

An hour later, about two dozen Americans had assembled to await a flight to a U.S. naval ship, visible offshore, and many more people were expected. The ship was due to sail to Cyprus overnight.

U.S. Embassy Counsellor Robert Pugh said the announcement was made suddenly "because we didn't want any hostile elements to get a chance to start something."

Gunmen manned a checkpoint 100 metres away but made no hostile moves. In some cases they walked along with people to the assembly point.

A reduced guard of U.S. Marines, hundreds of whose comrades have also pulled out of Beirut, stood in front of the militia position. A Marine's dog sniffed baggage for explosives.

In the British evacuation, groups of 20 strapped on life jackets and flew by helicopter to the royal fleet auxiliary Reliant, waiting over the horizon.



A U.S. soldier carries a baby to a waiting helicopter Friday as Britons and the United States started evacuating their citizens from Beirut (AP wirephoto)

Earlier this week, the U.S. State Department said there were about 1,000 U.S. civilians in Lebanon, but the spokesman said Friday he had no estimate of how many had already left.

Meanwhile, the Spanish government decided Friday to evacuate the 200-member Spanish community in Beirut because of

the "delicate and confusing" situation in the Lebanese capital, the Foreign Ministry said.

Little chance seen of U.S. Marines' return to Beirut; journalist describes Beirut ordeal, page 2

Opposition has lost faith in Gemayel, page 4

## Wounded Libya diplomat dies in Italian hospital

ROME (AP) — Libya's top diplomat in Italy, Ammar Al Taggazy, died Friday three weeks after being shot by two unidentified gunmen, doctors and Libyan officials said.

Doctors at the Umberto Hospital said the 43-year-old diplomat never regained consciousness after being shot in the abdomen, shoulder, and brain by two gunmen who ambushed near his home on Jan. 21.

They said Mr. Taggazy died

Friday morning. A Libyan embassy official contacted by telephone confirmed the report.

After the attack, an unidentified caller to the London bureau of the Associated Press claimed the shooting for a group calling itself Al-Borkan.

The group is unknown in London, Rome, or Beirut. Al-Borkan is the Arabic word for volcano.

Italian police said they have no leads in the case.

## THE EMBASSY OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS IN AMMAN

announces with deep regret and profound grief that

YURI VLADIMIROVICH ANDROPOV

General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, President of the Praesidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, died after a long illness on Feb. 9, 1984.

The embassy announces that the register of condolences will be opened at the office of the embassy on Sunday and Monday, Feb. 12 and 13, 1984 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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## Potash company awards contract for table salt production factory

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Arab Potash Company (APC) has awarded a contract for the construction of a table salt factory at its plant situated near the southern tip of the Dead Sea, according to APC Director Ali Khasawneh.

He said that the APC plant will begin producing 30,000 tonnes of



Ali Khasawneh

salt in 18 months time.

The construction of a salt washing plant has been awarded to a Swiss company which will build it at the cost of JD 2 million, Mr. Khasawneh said.

At present, he said, APC solar evaporation ponds produce nearly eight million tonnes of sodium chloride a year as an as yet unused by-product.

The company will refine it to produce enough table salt to satisfy the country's demand for salt at competitive prices. It will be packed in modern containers of different sizes to suit all needs, he said.

Once the APC plant salt is out on the market, it is hoped that there will be an end to the importation of foreign-made salt, Mr. Khasawneh added.

He said APC salt will not only be sufficient for local consumption but that there will be a surplus which is hoped to export to neighbouring countries.

"Our salt is expected to be of very high quality, and its low price will be attractive," he added.

Unrefined table salt is at present produced by Al Azraq residents using primitive methods. Many families in that region, he added, depend for a living on this business.

He said that the APC has had contacts with these families to explain the reasons behind the establishment of the salt plant and to find ways of helping them to make a living in the future.

In a bid to find a solution to the problem, APC has suggested the formation of a co-operative society in Azraq which will be granted the franchise to distribute salt produced by the APC plant both in Jordan and abroad, Mr. Khasawneh said.

In this way, he added, the Azraq families will be able to earn an income higher than they previously received.

## Arar reshuffles governors

AMMAN (Petra) — Interior Minister Suleiman Arar has decided to make a number of transfers among the administrative governors effective from Feb. 13, 1984.

Assistant District Governor of Jerash Abdullah Mohammad Abu Nowar will be transferred to Ajloun as assistant district governor. Wadi Seer Sub-District Governor Ahmad Abdullah Al Lawzi is to be transferred to Zarqa as assistant district governor.

Issam Rashad Al Khatib, sub-district governor in the Amman governorate is to be transferred to Jerash to occupy the post of assistant district governor.

Wadi Musa Sub-District Governor Oufan Shlash Al Majali will replace the Kourah sub-district governor, Abdul Latif Mohammad Al Tarawneh, who will be transferred to the Wadi Musa sub-district in succession to Mr. Majali.

Mr. Issa Mahmoud Issa, assistant district governor in Zarqa, is to go to Wadi Seer as sub-district governor, while Aref Mahfouz Abu Karaki, sub-district governor in the department of inspection and follow-up, will be transferred to Zarqa as assistant district governor.

## Masri attacks terrorist act

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Foreign Affairs Taher Al Masri expressed his deep grief at the terrorist act which resulted in the death of Sheikh Khalifa Ahmad Abdul Aziz Al Mubarak, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Ambassador to France who was assassinated in Paris Wednesday.

In a cable of condolences which he sent Thursday to the UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Rashid Abdullah Al Neimi, Mr. Masri said that this "criminal assassination" shows the extent of malice which a "rejected terrorist group" has reached.



Commander-in-Chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces Lt.-Gen. Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker Thursday presents one of the new aviation graduates with his wings (Petra photo)

## Sharif Zaid attends air force graduation

AMMAN (Petra) — Commander-in-Chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces Lieutenant-General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker Thursday morning presented graduates of the new aviation course with their wings.

During the celebration, which was held at the Royal Jordanian Air Force headquarters, Sharif Zaid gave trophies to the graduates excelling in their courses.

Attending the celebration were Chief of Staff Lt.-Gen. Fathi Abu Taleb, Commander of the Royal Jordanian Air Forces Brigadier Ihsan Shardam and a number of senior army officers.

## World leaders express regret

(Continued from page 1)

A NATO Soviet expert commented: "I would expect a period of inaction in terms of East-West relations while they try to put their house together again."

France was still assessing the impact on international relations. But, speaking in Brussels, French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson described Mr. Andropov's death as a tragic event.

The death of the Soviet leader, brought dismay in the Eastern bloc and prompted praise for Mr. Andropov as an outstanding communist leader.

The official East Germany news agency ADN described him as "an outstanding leader of the international communist and working class movement."

## Mubarak to seek to avoid clash

(Continued from page 1)

quick reconvening of the Lebanese national reconciliation talks which broke off in November after a one-week session in Geneva.

## Overall peace efforts

In Paris, Mr. Mubarak will explore with President Mitterrand the possibility of reviving the 1982 French-Egyptian peace plan at the U.N. Security Council.

Mr. Nafseh said another possibility is the "marriage" of the French-Egyptian plan and two other proposals offered by an Arab summit at Fez, Morocco, and by President Reagan in September 1982 following the Israeli invasion of Lebanon.

Mr. Nafseh said that in the opinion of those who favour a combination of the three plans — presumably including some in the Egyptian government — the Reagan initiative alone has become "unacceptable" as a basis for peace efforts because of the failure of American policy in Lebanon.

Israel opposes all three plans. Mr. Mubarak has said in the past that he accepts the Reagan formula with reservations because it is the only one supported by the United States.

The Egyptian-French plan calls for mutual recognition of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) as the first step toward peace talks. The plan was never formally offered for fear of a U.S. veto in the Security Council because the formula provides a role for the PLO in peace talks.

But French officials said in Paris this week that France is not keen on offering the plan because of the urgent need to end the fighting in Lebanon.

## Remainder of south links up to national grid

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) Friday completed the linking up of south Jordan with the National Transmission Grid by electrifying the Aqaba 132/33 KV substation via the 132 KV double circuit overhead transmission line.

This line runs from the Ma'an 132/33/11 KV substation passing through the Qweira 132/33 KV substation.

All electric power stations in south Jordan have now been connected to the Hussein Thermal Power Station in Zarqa and the Marka Power Station.

This will enhance the reliability and availability of electricity in south Jordan both in supporting large industrial projects and serving individual household consumers, a spokesman for JEA said.

It will also facilitate the supply and reliability of electrical current to remote areas in south Jordan.



Michael Hamarneh

## Ad hoc body to report on hotel industry

AMMAN (Petra) — The Tourism Authority Council has decided to form a consultative commission to advise the authority with Director-General of Tourism Michael Hamarneh as its president.

The council has also authorised Mr. Hamarneh to form a technical committee to study the conditions prevailing in the hotel industry and to review their charges and to submit their findings to the council at its next meeting.

## Jordan, Tunisia seek ways of boosting trade

TUNIS (Petra) — Ways of promoting trade relations between Tunisia and Jordan were discussed during a meeting between Under-Secretary at the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism Mohammad Saleh Al Hourani and his Tunisian counterpart Khalifa Al Qarawi.

They decided to hold a session of the joint Jordanian-Tunisian trade committee to meet in Amman within the coming few months, during which means of following up on the implementation of the commercial agreement, earlier between the two countries, as well as concluded economic and technical co-operation will be discussed.

A specialised exhibition will also be held in both Tunis and Amman in order to publicise the range of commodities produced by the two states.

Meanwhile, Mr. Hourani discussed with the delegation of the Arab Republic of Yemen the possibility of concluding a commercial agreement between the two countries to facilitate trade. Mr. Hourani, who headed Jordan's delegation to the meeting of the Arab Economic and Social Council which concluded its 36th session in Tunis Thursday, said that the council had announced that Arab countries should encourage the migration of labour for employment purposes within the region.

The announcement, says Mr. Hourani, calls for Arab countries to co-operate within the framework of the Arab economic and social integration agreement to achieve the best use of Arab human capabilities.

The announcement also says that migrant workers and their families should enjoy all rights by workers in the host country.

It further calls on Arab countries to establish joint Arab projects capable of absorbing unemployed workers to curb the migration of skilled Arab workers.

## Lebanese exports

Mr. Hourani said the council had discussed the exportation of Lebanese industrial and agricultural products to the Arab countries and decided to appeal to member states to condemn the Israeli occupation of south Lebanon and the Zionist policy of disrupting agriculture there.

The council, added Mr. Hourani, called on Arab economic institutions to extend all possible support to Lebanon to enable the Lebanese bodies and institutions to overcome the problems they are facing.

A working party, to include three experts and a representative from the office of Arab Boycott of Israel Committee, has been formed to look at ways of facilitating the entry of Lebanese products to Arab countries.

The council stressed the importance of implementing the Arab transit agreement which the social and economic council approved at a past meeting.

Mr. Hourani added that the council discussed the subject of extending aid to African states hit by drought, and called on the Arab Organisation for Agricultural Development to give the provision of such African states, with food due attention in their future plans.

The council also decided to apply Arab or if unavailable international specifications to products for export and to entrust national inspection committees to control the application of such specifications.

## Iraqi ambassador praises Jordan's honourable stand on war with Iran

AMMAN (Petra) — The Iraqi Ambassador to Jordan Ibrahim Shuja'a Al Sultan paid tribute to Jordan's honourable stand in its support for Iraq in its just war against Iran in a press conference Thursday.

Had other Arabs also taken up this honourable stand, Iran would not have continued its aggression against Iraq and consequently the war would not have been prolonged, Mr. Sultan said.

Concerning the recent Iraqi warnings to strike a number of selected targets in some Iranian cities in revenge for the Iranian shelling of Iraqi civilian targets, Mr. Sultan said that such warnings by Iraq reflect its respect for human life.

The Iraqi ambassador said Iraq is prepared to sign an agreement with Iran to stop the shelling of civil targets. Iraq has announced its unilateral intention to observe this more than once but the Iranians did not respond, he said.

Mr. Sultan also reviewed the stages of Iranian hostility to the Arab World, saying that it has historical roots which date back way into history.

He further added that Iraq has always responded positively to peace initiatives and to the decisions of international bodies and organisations.

In particular Iraq has responded to those of the Non-Aligned Movement to settle the dispute through peaceful means, he said, adding that Iran has rejected all peace overtures and has insisted on continuing its aggression against Iraq.

Mr. Sultan revealed that Iraq has new weapons which it has not used yet, but that it might use it in any future battles.

He said the economic situation in Iraq is good and that the Iraqi leadership is working on a programme to guarantee the inflow of

sufficient income to match expenditure through the exportation of oil and an increase in industrial production.

In answer to a question about transferring the war to Iranian land, the ambassador said the Iraqi military leadership will do so if it deems that such a measure will give it a better opportunity to defend its land and people.

Asked about the restoration of relations with Egypt, he said there is an attempt to return Egypt to the Arab fold, but Iraq will not act individually in this respect.



Iraqi Ambassador to Jordan Ibrahim Shuja'a Al Sultan (third from left) Thursday holds a press conference here (Petra photo)

## Demonstrations over expelled students disrupt Yarmouk University campus

By Salameh B. Ne'matt  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

Yarmouk University, Dr. Adnan Badran, met representatives of the dismissed students and heard their views.

He said the university will give 400 of the students concerned another chance to raise their averages by continuing studies as private students for one more term, but students again rejected the idea.

The president's offer, according to them, would have meant that they would have to pay more fees. "This is something that we will not do," one student said.

In a statement Mr. Badran gave Wednesday, he said the university's curricula and regulations will remain unchanged having been amended as recently as 1982 following thorough studies and consultations with the higher education board.

Representatives of the dismissed students Thursday said they failed to obtain averages of 70 per cent because the academic plan contains many shortcomings, and called on the university to take part of the responsibility for the students' failure.

The students said that if their demands did not receive proper attention, they would approach the Lower House of Parliament Speaker Akel Al Fayed and Prime Minister Ahmad 'Obeidat to find a solution.

A reform committee has been formed which consists of a number of university deans and professors to study the demands of the students and to find a solution to the current problems, a university official said Friday.

The committee is scheduled to meet Saturday to discuss the issue, he added.

The reason for the students' rejection of the compromise made by the university to allow 400 of the expelled students to change to other fields of specialisation within the institution is because many of the students have been studying for two or more years and some are nearing their graduation. They were unhappy at having to go back to the first year and to study a new course, students said.

Most of the protesters were students who registered in 1983 and who claim they did not know about the September 1983 newly implemented regulations.

According to those students interviewed, the protesters have four main demands: The readmission of all expelled students; the formation of a student council; suspension of student societies (which, according to some students, are not representative of the student body), and the amendment of the university's regulations to reintroduce the pre-September 1983 regulations requiring only an average of 60 per cent from students.

As a result of Wednesday's protests, registration employees at the university stopped the registration process of other students in solidarity with the demonstrators, according to the students who talked to the Jordan Times.

He added that the reason for protesting was that they were worried about receiving the same treatment, many of them having already received their first warning from the university to improve their averages by the end of the next semester.

The students, according to the university's regulations, are given two warnings before any expulsions are made.

## Soviet president passes away

(Continued from page 1)  
nominal head of state as well as head of the party.

### Friendly approach

Starting his tenure, Mr. Andropov began by harking back to more friendly days of U.S.-Soviet detente and there was a tentative thaw in relations in 1983, including the signing of a long-term U.S.-Soviet grain pact and a compromise at the Madrid European security conference.

The Soviet leader, who displayed skill in public relations despite his KGB career, was portrayed as a peace-loving father figure.

He invited 12-year-old Samantha Smith of Maine to visit the Soviet Union during the summer of 1983, and made efforts to befriend Western European peace groups by sending them personal letters to support.

But under a series of international crises — the Soviet downing of a South Korean airliner, the U.S. invasion of Grenada, and the suspension of the U.S.-Soviet arms talks — Mr. Andropov soon took a personal lead in one of the most vitriolic East-West wars of words in history.

U.S. Vice-President George Bush, who headed the American delegation to Mr. Brezhnev's funeral, was the highest-ranking U.S. official and one of few Western leaders to meet Mr. Andropov.

A frequently talked about summit with U.S. President Ronald Reagan never came off and relations between the two superpowers plunged to their chilliest state in years.

One of Mr. Andropov's last public statements, issued in the form of an interview with Pravda on Jan. 24, was a response to Mr. Reagan's speech calling for closer U.S.-Soviet dialogue. Mr. Andropov said the Soviet Union was always ready for constructive talks aimed at achieving concrete accords.

But he said he saw no change in what he called Mr. Reagan's position of trying to threaten and intimidate the Soviets and said until positive steps were taken by the United States — primarily in the disarmament arena — the Soviets would not be forced into "talks for the sake of talks."

Rumours about Mr. Andropov's health have been rampant for months. He has not been seen in public since Aug. 18, 1983, when he met with a delegation of U.S. congressmen.

Since then, there have been unconfirmed reports that he had undergone kidney dialysis or that he had problems with gallstones. A London newspaper at one point ran a story claiming he might have been shot by Mr. Brezhnev's son.

The Soviets have blamed his absence on a "cold" or on undisclosed "temporary" conditions.

Following is the text of the official announcement Friday of the death of Mr. Andropov, as carried

by the English-language service of the official Soviet news agency TASS.

"The Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet and the USSR Council of Ministers with deep sorrow inform the party and the entire Soviet people that Yuri Vladimirovich Andropov, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, president of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, died after a long illness at 16 hours 50 minutes on Feb. 9, 1984.

"The name of Yuri Vladimirovich Andropov, an outstanding leader of the Communist Party and of the Soviet state, a staunch fighter for the ideals of communism and for peace, will always remain in the hearts of the Soviet people, of the whole progressive humanity."

There was no immediate announcement of funeral plans but it was anticipated that the Red Square rites would be held on Monday at the earliest.

There was no announcement Friday on whether the ruling circle was meeting to name a successor.

Mr. Andropov began his leadership looking and sounding robust and according to foreigners who met him, with a firmness and alertness that belied his many apparent ailments.

### Deteriorating health

Mr. Andropov is believed to have suffered a heart attack in 1966. Last spring, Soviet sources said he had been hospitalised briefly, but a few days after the word was leaked to Western correspondents, Mr. Andropov met with Nicaraguan leader Daniel Ortega and was seen smiling and shaking hands with Mr. Ortega on Soviet television.

Various reports have said Mr. Andropov suffered heart and kidney problems complicated by diabetes and perhaps other ailments. In June, when he was named president of the Soviet Union, he made only brief acceptance remarks in the Soviet parliament. Reporters and diplomats who got a close view of him through binoculars observed that his left hand shook as he grasped papers.

In mid-1983, after keeping a fairly high public profile, Mr. Andropov dropped out of view and missed one important public event after another.

He took the unprecedented step of missing the Day of Revolution on Nov. 5 and Nov. 7. Mr. Andropov then stayed away from the Communist Party Central Committee plenum in late December, 1983, and the subsequent meeting of the Supreme Soviet.

The events were considered a protocol must for the Soviet leader, and Andropov's absence renewed the persistent concern about the state of his health.

At first, the Kremlin said he had "a cold," but in January, Pravda

editor Viktor Afanasyev confirmed rumours that Mr. Andropov had kidney problems. Still, the Soviets predicted Mr. Andropov would return to public view and his influence was felt in the ruling circles.

Kremlin spokesmen and other sources said he remained in charge of government affairs. Some sources said Mr. Andropov was running the Politburo from his country home, or "dacha," outside Moscow.

Soviets hung out mourning flag. Friday and awaited word on who would assume the seat of communist power.

Although Mr. Andropov, did not live long enough to see any of his initiatives beyond the initial stages, his stay in office was not able for economic and political drives that marked the start of his tenure.

He also emerged as the leading figure in the Soviet Union's political struggle with the United States over nuclear arms and for pre-eminence in Europe, Latin America and the Middle East.

But despite his attempts to shed what he called the "inertia" of previous administrations, the Soviet Union found itself little changed after 15 months.

Burial was set for Red Square next Tuesday.

There was no announcement when the Communist Party Central Committee would meet to ratify the successor chosen by the 12 members of the ruling Politburo.

Party officials worked into the night, their office buildings ablaze with light as darkness and light snow fell on the Soviet capital. Workers hung black-trimmed hammer-and-sickle flags on the hall of unions, where Mr. Andropov will lie in state, and other major public buildings.

### Reagan may attend funeral

U.S. President Ronald Reagan expressed his condolences on Friday on the death of Mr. Andropov, and a White House official held out the possibility that the president will personally attend the funeral.

The official, who spoke on the condition that he remain anonymous, said Mr. Reagan could go to the funeral if the Soviets have chosen a new leader by that time. "It's truly an open question and there will be a judgement made on the basis of what steps are taken in the Soviet Union," the official said.

Asked whether it would depend on whether a new leader was chosen or on whom that person was, the official replied, "I would guess both."

This official added: "Right now, we can't make a judgement... because at the moment there is no chief of state there."

He acknowledged a senior White House official in Washington had told wire service reporters earlier that it was unlikely Mr. Reagan would travel to Moscow.



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## ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Friday

### Al Dustour: Delay promotes division

THE ANNOUNCEMENT by the Arab League Secretary-General Chadi Klibi postponing the 13th Arab Summit Conference came as an ominous sign to the role for which the summit conferences were originally intended. Summit conferences, as we all know, are to co-ordinate and mobilise the Arabs to confront the serious challenges threatening the security of the Arab World.

However, recent summit conferences have shown a dangerous tendency as some Arabs want such conferences to be a formality having no bearing on the dangers facing the Arab World. The Arab people want to know about the reasons behind this postponement at a time when the fighting in Lebanon is taking a fierce turn, thus threatening Lebanon with partition. Lebanon is also becoming a stage for confrontation between the superpowers. The Arab citizen also demands to know why the conference has been put off when Arab and Islamic blood is still running at the eastern gate of the Arab World and while our people in Palestine are being harassed continuously by Israeli laws.

Jordan has expressed its great regret over the postponement of the 13th summit conference, because Jordan knows too well that the only alternative to the summit is a deterioration in the conditions prevailing in the Arab World and a further polarisation which will threaten the region. Do the Arab parties, which are obstructing the summit conference really know the impact on our nation of their deeds? Do they also not realise that taking away all the meaning from such summit conferences will bring nothing to the Arabs but polarisation and division?

### Sawt Al Shaab: Decision comes too late

IF THE news about the cancellation by the Lebanese President Amin Gemayel of the Lebanese-Israeli pact of May 17, is true, then such a decision will have come too late to be a magic move to stop the continuing violence in the Lebanese arena. The events in Lebanon have overtaken the pact of May 17, thus the cancellation is now only one component of any settlement if it is to preserve unity in Lebanon, land and people.

The Lebanese people and the government have become aware that no one Lebanese party is capable of exerting its authority over the country without upsetting the equilibrium resulting in renewed tactical fighting. The Falangists tried to follow an individual course and so did the government, the socialists and Amal, but they all individually failed. Loyalty to any outside authority cannot achieve any gain or profit for anybody. The attempts to gain a victory and to impose hegemony on the Lebanese gained nothing except to turn the country into a volcano which has killed many and driven out the multinational forces stationed on its land.

Israel, Syria and the United States, in addition to the other countries taking part in the multinational force expected that they would be stationed in comfort would live in peace and calm. The real situation has been a big shock indeed to them and their governments. Cancellation of the May 17 pact, the withdrawal of the Marines and the multi-national forces, in addition to the other forces from Lebanon, will leave Lebanon to its people. The Lebanese, at the end of the day, can be the only decision-makers regarding the future.

Thursday

### Al Ra'i: Weakness and failure

THE AMERICANS have withdrawn from Beirut after Washington has lost all credibility in the eyes of the Arab Nation, though it had earlier declared that no power on earth would force the marines to pull out of the city. When the American marines were first sent to Beirut, it was under the slogan of forcing the Zionist invaders to withdraw from Lebanon and to assist the legitimate government in re-building its institution so as to restore peace and stability in that country. These marines proved a failure from the first test they were put to, and now they have left the city with the country more divided than ever and the Lebanese government even weaker and in great disarray.

This failure was mainly due to their involvement in the factional fighting in the country and in their adoption of interests in opposition to the national forces of Lebanon. The withdrawal from Beirut is not only an admission of weakness but also a defeat for American policies in Lebanon and the whole Middle East region. The Americans have failed because they have supported the "isolationist group" in Lebanon and the Zionist forces against the whole Arab nation.

### Al Dustour: Guns can do nothing

AS WAS expected, American policies have totally collapsed in Lebanon and the marines have had to pull out from Beirut to safety. Washington's decision to withdraw the marines is tantamount to an admission of failure in handling the Lebanese question and the beginning of America's retreat that entails wider implications and more serious repercussions because Washington has lost all credibility. This will affect its whole influence in the region.

The bombardment of Lebanese targets by U.S. navy ships came to underline the failure of American policies and presents yet further concrete evidence of Washington's weakness in handling the Middle East issue. The big guns, the marines and U.S. support for one party against the other in Lebanon can never change any of the established fact, that the fighting will never achieve peace in Lebanon. The shelling of targets in Lebanon can only lead to further complications.

### Sawt Al Shaab: U.S. must reconsider

AMERICA'S DEFEAT in Lebanon should make Washington re-examine its policies in the region and Washington should stop considering itself the sole responsible party that can bring about peace to the country. The defeat underlines the fact that the Israeli-U.S. alliance, directed against the Arab Nation's interests, will never succeed. The defeat of U.S. policies in Lebanon came as a result of America's insistence on helping Israel to achieve its ambitions in the region and safeguarding its interests at the expense of the Arab World. Also Washington's support for one party in Lebanon against the other helped to sap U.S. credibility in the region.

The Lebanese government is also to blame because it threw away all chances of reaching a compromise solution with the opposition and because it thought it could impose its hegemony on all the other factions and political parties in Lebanon.

## VIEW FROM AMERICA

# Now it is the Shi'ites not 'the Reds' in U.S.

SAN FRANCISCO — WHETHER MIDDLE Easterners like, loathe or could not care less about Iran, they must realise that Iran is right in the middle of the Middle East. And since the U.S. is becoming so vital a power in the Middle East, they should try to understand the rapidly evolving ideological image of Iran in the U.S. The most important element in U.S. foreign policy towards the Middle East in the years to come will no longer be U.S. ties to Israel or even towards Saudi Arabia. It will be the complex relationship between the U.S. and Iran. And what will count in that relationship will be spiritual, ideological, psychological elements, as much as (or even more than) the practical aspects of war or peace or oil deliveries or other economic ties. More important, perhaps, even than the U.S.-Soviet balance of power in the Middle East.

The best way to begin to understand this evolving image of Iran in the U.S. is to look, historically, at our images of Russia and China. The Russian Revolution erupted in 1917. Most of the Western allies tried to overthrow the new Bolshevik government. But, once it failed, all the European countries simply recognised the new regime. Not the U.S. It refused, seeing Russia, in effect, as a "Great (or Red) Satan." Recognition came only in 1933. But during the following years, Russia's image as "Satan" remained. It revived during the Cold War, then abated somewhat, and last year erupted afresh.

Then came China's turn. The Chinese before then had a reasonably good image in the U.S. (poor but honest and hard-working). Then Communism struck. And suddenly China became the "Great Red Dragon". In the 1950's, hatred of China reached feverish levels. In the 1960's, the Vietnam war almost spilled over into China. Now China's image has drastically changed, and gloating

commentaries report on China's "turn towards capitalism."

But while the Soviet Union's image remains negative ("the focus of all evil" in Ronald Reagan's words), it has not gone back to the earlier image. Americans see the Soviets as enemies, but not as wild revolutionaries. Now it has become the turn of Iran to carry that image for the U.S. and also for most Americans.

With the recent spate of propaganda in the U.S. press about "Shi'ite terrorism," the image of Iran has gone from a country made "mad by a fanatical religious leader" to one which is systematically exporting its madness to other countries through "suicide squads." Just as Russia and China, earlier, were seen as sending out subversives and terrorists to undermine the peaceful societies around them, so now Iran is regarded as a carrier of deadly germs which they blow outward.

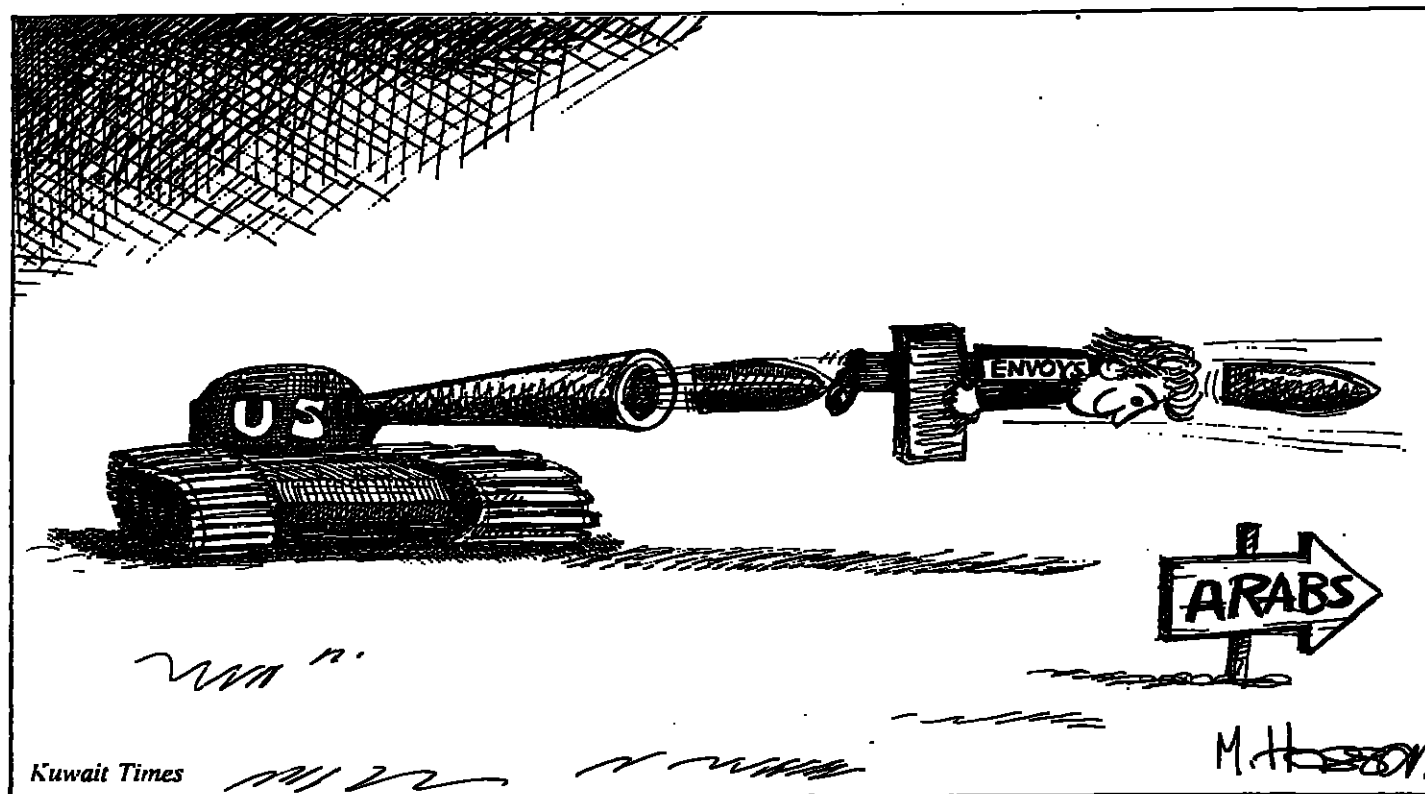
In fact, ever since the Russian Revolution, the American view of revolution has seemed a lot like their image of infectious or cancerous diseases. The disease originates in a diseased part of the body. If not halted, it will spread and kill the body. The best is to cure it with medicines so that health (democracy) is restored. The next option is to cut out (or off) the diseased part of the body surgically. And if neither works, then all one can do is to try and isolate the diseased part from the rest of the body. In Russia's case it came to be called "containment." In China's, "stopping Chinese expansionism." As yet it has no specific name in the case of Iran.

Americans have a strong concern with health. They believe in healthy governments, healthy societies, and healthy bodies. They also are very worried about illnesses that afflict governments, societies, and bodies. And they have become accustomed to think of "sources of infection," places where the diseases come from. Iran is now seen as one such place. In a view point becoming increasingly common, Iran is seen as the source of infection of the "Shi'ite revolution," which has already killed over 2600 Americans. The Iranian threat has now superseded the "Red threat" in the Middle East.

When the Iran-Iraq war broke out in September 1980, the U.S. hoped Iran would fall apart. That did not happen. So the U.S. now is moving towards the third option of seeking to isolate Iran from the rest of the world. There is now much less worry in Washington that Iran will tilt towards the Soviet Union. With Tudeh Party members facing possible execution, Soviet-Iranian relations are poor. In Afghanistan, the guerrillas are not doing well, especially the Hizb-ullahi groups which are Fundamentalist Islamic in their beliefs. It is a fact that they have received very little aid from the U.S. Pakistan's Zia ul-Haq remains a firm friend of the U.S. The U.S. has strong allies all along the western Gulf coast. Washington is now tilting towards Iraq. And one can even sense a desire to reach an accord with Syria over Lebanon which would weaken the Damascus-Tehran linkage.

In the past when the U.S. pursued "isolate Russia," and "isolate China," policies, it ended up supporting the most reactionary of regimes, most of which ended up on the garbage heap of history. More ominously, U.S. policy usually backedfire in giving even more strength to other revolutionary movements. So, for example, we "lost" not only China but Indochina as well.

The danger in Washington's new version of an old policy is that it could do for the Iranian Revolution what 3.5 years of war with Iraq could not do: help it spread further throughout the Middle East.



## Opposition has lost trust in Gemayel

By Paul Eedle  
Reuters

BEITEDDINE, Lebanon — Lebanon's Druze Muslims, secure in their mountain strongholds and supported by Syria, can afford to defy a government which does not control all its own capital.

In a three-week war against rightist militias and the Lebanese army last September, the predominantly-Druze Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) consolidated its rule over the Shouf mountains southeast of Beirut.

PSP forces now control almost all of a ridge which dominates the capital and territory stretching 25 kilometres south from there to the Israeli-occupied south of Lebanon.

Almost every part of the area is within range of army and rightist militia artillery, and the fighting and isolation from Beirut have hit local farming.

But shops, even fashion boutiques, appear well stocked and a "civil administration" based at a 19th-century palace in Beiteddine is trying to improve electricity and water supplies and mend roads in the region.

The PSP militia has no difficulty bringing in weapons and amm-

munition from the Syrian-held east of Lebanon.

When local leaders look out the Beiteddine Palace, a prize of last September's war, across the sweep of territory they control there appears little pressure on them to compromise with the government unless they want to.

On the contrary it is their opponents, the Lebanese and United States governments, which appear to be under pressure as neither diplomatic efforts nor the presence of U.S. and other Western forces in Lebanon seem to be bringing peace.

Saudi Arabia, the one country friendly to the Lebanese and U.S. governments which is able to influence the opposition's backers in Syria, has called for U.S. troops to leave Lebanon as soon as possible.

Democrats in the U.S. House of Representatives had backed a resolution demanding "prompt and orderly withdrawal" of the 1,600 U.S. Marines in Beirut.

Lebanese officials had been left making increasingly urgent appeals for American, French, Italian and British troops forming the Multinational Force to stay and support the government.

In Beirut itself, the army has lost control of large parts of the

southern suburbs of the city to gunmen from the Shi'ite Muslim militia Amal, allies of the PSP forces.

All this, combined with an almost complete breakdown of trust between the opposition and the government, forms the background to this week's uncompromising statements by the PSP leader, Walid Junblatt.

Mr. Junblatt accused Lebanese President Amin Gemayel and the army of working only in the interests of the right-wing Falangist Party, which controls the biggest Christian militia and is the Druze's long-standing enemy.

He said a government "security plan" to establish a lasting ceasefire around Beirut was "a waste of time" and declared: "A settlement with the Falangists is impossible, impossible, a decisive battle is coming, it is inevitable."

The government wants to bring peace by first agreeing on the security plan, separating the Druze and their Shi'ite Muslim allies from the Lebanese army and the right-wing militias.

It would then start more talks between the main religious factions on how the country should be governed in future.

But the PSP refuses to accept any security plan unless they are guaranteed that the government will make the political concessions it wants.

These include replacing the Maronite-dominated system of government with one giving more say to various sects.

The PSP also wants the government to cancel last May's agreement on the withdrawal of Israeli troops from Lebanon which they and the Syrians say is too favourable to Israel.

"There can be no salvation for Lebanon except through a serious political solution that lays down the basis for social, economic and political change," Mr. Junblatt said.

He said sectarianism had to be eliminated, wealth distributed more fairly and Lebanon's links with the Arab World strengthened by developing its relations with Syria.

Tawfiq Barakat, head of the PSP in the Shouf Mountains, told reporters at Beiteddine Palace: "We have just about reached a dead end with this government."

Colonel Riyad Takeddine, in charge of security in the Shouf, added: "It is a problem of trust."

## Egyptian democracy and May elections

By Peter Hildrew

For the first time since late President Nasser's revolution in 1952, Egyptians are having to ask themselves whether to take elections seriously. President Mubarak has been proclaiming his commitment to democracy for 2.5 years, but the May 27 general election will be his moment of trust.

Campaigning for what Egyptians are now openly calling "our experiment" does not start officially until April, yet the papers are already full of election talk and Mr. Mubarak himself is trying to drum life into rallies of his National Democratic Party (NDP).

The starting pistol was fired by the court which recently legalised the new Wafd Party, successor to Egypt's most popular political movement of the pre-revolution years. The re-emergence of the Wafd has at once taken the contest beyond the empty endorsement exercises of Sadat's time and no one is now sure just how far down the road towards genuine choice the country is about to move.

The governing NDP is not seriously expected to lose, at least this time round — a respectable parliamentary opposition is presumably Mr. Mubarak's aim. A desultory turnout would be a failure, while too heavy a vote for the Wafd could damage the president's prestige and put the whole process into reverse.

According to Makram Mohammed Ahmed, head of the state-owned Dar El-Hilal publishing house, the president wants to explore his legitimacy with the people. Lacking the status Nasser and Sadat enjoyed as leaders of the revolution, and also their charisma, he senses that the people must be more involved in the struggle to cope with the country's internal problems.

He is widely regarded as a fair and sincere man, unexciting and cautious, but consistent and quite tough. He is striving to corner one of the most dangerous issues — Sadat's legacy of corruption and enrichment for the hierarchy — by credibly presenting himself as Mr. Clean.

That reputation would not survive a rigged election. The Egyptians have grown accustomed to absurd ballot declarations of 99.9

per cent turnouts when the most achieved was 15 per cent in the cities and perhaps double that in the country.

Opposition parties all believe that the entire government apparatus has been mobilised to back the NDP campaign, with little distinction between administrative and party matters: the 1982-7 five-year plan is effectively the NDP manifesto and juicy investment projects are announced daily.

The opposition has been promised election time in April — but ministers are hogging it now. The big state-owned papers like Al-Ahram endorse the president and his party, while Mr. Razzik runs into bureaucratic obstruction when he wants to print extra copies of his paper, and the Wafd cannot find anyone prepared to print the paper it is trying to launch.

Then there is the new election law, stipulating that parties must win eight per cent of the national vote to gain a presence in parliament. Ostensibly modelled on the West German five per cent threshold, this rule could result in opposition parties winning a few seats in their best areas, only to have to hand them over to the NDP for failing to qualify.

Observers feel that the Unionist Progressive Party (UPP), an uneasy alliance of Nasserists and Marxists, will have a struggle to pass the threshold, as will the moderate left Labour Party led by Ibrahim Shukry, current parliamentary opposition leader. To the right of the NDP, the Liberals may be squeezed out by the Wafd.

President Mubarak's decision to throw his own prestige into the fray has indeed become an issue. The Egyptians, used to following their ruler's cue, are thought much more likely to back their president than vote against him, especially in the villages.

Having failed to persuade Mr. Mubarak to remain neutral, the opposition is now trying to needle him over Israel's settlement policies in Palestine. The reconciliation with Yasser Arafat and the Islamic conference has thus been nicely timed, while the peace policy remains fundamentally popular and economically necessary. The Guardian

## Italy's cruise anger Tripoli

By Enrico Jacchia

ROME — Muammar Qadhafi dislikes the idea that 41 cruise missiles will be installed in a few weeks — March 16 is the date mentioned — in Comiso, Italy, a few hundred miles from his presidential palace.

His evident displeasure has caused concern within the government in Rome, where it is noted that about 15,000 Italian workers and technicians are now in Libya. If the unpredictable Colonel Qadhafi were to make some of those Italians hostage, it would not be the first time he had played such games with foreigners.

Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti has flown to Tripoli for a visit that is the first at its level in years of cool relations between Italy and Libya.

He has explained to his host that the cruise missiles to be deployed in Comiso will be directed exclusively at Soviet and Warsaw Pact targets.

But Colonel Qadhafi appears not to feel reassured. His advisers, to be sure, will have made it clear to him that the cruise missiles to be installed in Comiso are pro-

grammed to fly only to targets such as Odessa, to Soviet air and missile bases in the Carpathian region, and so on. But an alternative programme could be inserted in the nuclear warhead with an accurate description, for instance, of the huge underground military bases that the Libyans have been constructing for years in the desert.

It is not clear how far the Libyan leader is prepared to press this issue. He knows that Italian workers and Italian investors help in the development of his country. He also knows that a determined Libyan opposition to the installation of the missiles in Comiso could help Moscow in its larger designs.

The Greek government flatly opposes the deployment in Comiso. The Italian Communists have increased the pitch of their anti-nuclear rhetoric and are focusing now on the imminent deployments. If Colonel Qadhafi effectively plays the cards he holds, the pressure on the Italian government might persuade Rome to ask for a delay. The missiles might then stay in storage in Sigonella. — International Herald Tribune.





In order to woo females, male bowerbirds may spend weeks building and decorating special structures such as this one, which are used only for courting and mating. The duller the bird, the fancier his bower. (N.G. photo).

## Dullest bird, fanciest nest

By Joy Aschenbach

WASHINGTON — Only on the faraway island of New Guinea could you see it:

A tower of sticks eight feet high—hundreds of sticks interwoven and glued together about a small tree that serves as a maypole. On the ground around it, bits of dried moss meticulously pieced together to make a perfect circle, six feet in diameter and six inches thick. Ringing the base of the tree, a cone of moss nine inches high.

Six-foot-long daggerlike pandanus leaves leaning against the stick tower. Adorning the structure, piles of acorns, snail shells, beetle wing cases, black stones, white stones, and more sticks. As many as 400 acorns and 250 snail shells piled separately by colour. As a final touch, the beetle wing cases, piles of sticks, and the entire moss that painted with a black oily substance.

### Work of one bird

No wonder the 19th-century explorers who first happened upon such elaborate structures high up in the mountains of New Guinea assumed that they must be fashioned by human hands.

But the architect, master builder, construction worker, and interior decorator then, as now, is a single small creature that weighs about four ounces. It is a dull brown bird with a chunky body a little bigger than a robin's. Known as the Vogelkop bowerbird, the male of its species, *Amphispiza melanogaster*, builds the biggest, most complex, and lavishly decorated bowers among all bowerbirds.

He works on the original str-

ucture for weeks, and then keeps fussing over it, keeping it clear of debris and replacing damaged or withered parts. The Vogelkop bowerbird is found only in mountains in the western end of New Guinea; the other 17 species are found only in other parts of the island or Australia.

The male bowerbird goes to this trouble for only one reason: to woo females. A rare phenomenon in the avian world, his highly developed bower is used only for courting and mating; nesting and raising of the young take place elsewhere and are the exclusive province of the female.

"The dullest birds build the fanciest bowers because they have no colourful plumes to show off," says ornithologist Jared M. Diamond of the University of California, Los Angeles. Diamond has made three expeditions to the Indonesian section of the divided island.

Unlike male bowerbirds adorned by nature with bright orange or golden feathers and crests, the Vogelkop bowerbird has had nearly all its sexual ornaments transferred to the bower. In this look-alike species, it is impossible to tell male and female apart by appearance.

### Some local traditions

Bower designs and decorations differ not only by genus and species, but also among individual birds. "There seem to be some local artistic traditions," Dr. Diamond observes. "Populations of Vogelkop bowerbirds just five miles apart will decorate quite differently." The brown, black, and white bower with the tall tower is the most elaborate of the Vogelkop bowers Dr. Diamond has

seen. It differs greatly in structure from previously known Vogelkop bowers, which are usually more colourful.

Dr. Diamond found it among a new population of these bowerbirds he discovered last year, 4,000 to 4,800 feet up in the Kumawa Mountains.

To get there, he and 17 porters had to hack a trail through the thick jungle growth in torrential rains. It took them five days to go five miles, from the coast up the steep, uninhabited mountain.

Dr. Diamond went to the Kumawa and to the Wandamen Mountains about 150 miles away to survey wildlife before the two regions become national parks.

More similar to the Vogelkop bowers, those in the Wandamen are umbrella-shaped stick huts built on a mat of live green moss colourfully decorated with fruits and flowers, red leaves, green, red or black butterfly wings, pieces of orange and black fungus, orange bark, the beetle heads as well as wing cases.

Into the midst of all these natural adornments 5,600 feet up in the mountains, Dr. Diamond introduced poker chips. Some of the birds incorporated them into their designs.

He brought along chips of seven colours to study the birds' colour preferences. By scratching numbers on the chips, he also was able to get evidence on their well-known vice of stealing from each other and, in more populous places, from people.

"The record for one bird was 31 chips," Dr. Diamond said. "He used all I gave him and stole chips from a neighbour bird a couple of hundred yards away."

— National Geographic feature.

46% of average American Jews, 94% of leaders contribute to charities

## Israel comes first to American Jews

By David Knight

THE IDEA that on issues affecting Israel the American Jewish community is American first, Zionist second, has always been a touchy point. Many observers of American Jewish politics believe it. American Jews passionately deny it.

A new national survey of American Jews and leaders of the major U.S. Jewish organisations provides the definitive answer. Undertaken by the American Jewish Committee, the survey confirms that American Jews believe Israel should come first in their allegiances. They identify Israel so closely with their personal and religious identity that they put their loyalty to Israel ahead of their allegiance to the U.S.

This unusual survey also reveals a deep strain of political paranoia in the American Jewish community that poses election problems for President Reagan and the Republican party. Despite all that the Reagan administration has done in support of Israel, most Jews consider the president and his fellow Republicans insufficiently supportive of Israel. Compared with the Democratic party candidates. The survey also documents the tension which their dual loyalty causes American Jews in their relations with non-Jews. Though they deny their Israel-first sentiments in public, American Jews appear to believe that non-Jews know the secret, and may one day punish them, as well as Israel, because of it.

What American Jews fear is that the targets of their hostility will retaliate.

The American Jewish Committee has commissioned an annual survey of U.S. Jewish opinion since 1981. The 1983 survey, however, is "the most in-depth and extensive analysis ever conducted regarding American Jewish behaviour and attitudes towards Israel", according to its author, Steven M. Cohen, a senior fellow at Brandeis University in Massachusetts, and a visiting scholar at the Hebrew University in Israel. Cohen has also surveyed the New York metropolitan area Jewish population for the United Jewish Appeal, and is the author of *American Modernity and Jewish Identity*. For this survey, Mr. Cohen contacted a national sample of 640 Jewish households, randomly selected from a register of 80,000 distinctive Jewish-name telephone subscribers compiled by a Jewish fund-raising firm. Mr. Cohen also sent questionnaires separately to the board members of five leading national Jewish groups — the American Jewish Committee, the American Jewish Congress, the B'nai B'rith, the

United Jewish Appeal, and the Anti-Defamation League. A total of 272 leaders responded. According to Mr. Cohen, "a comparison of this survey's respondents with those of more sophisticated (and costly) Jewish population studies revealed only

least once. One in six says he has seriously considered emigrating there.

There's much more to the connection than this. Most U.S. Jews not only feel their kinship with Israel: they act it out much of the time. Almost half (46 per cent) of

Are each of these "American Groups... generally friendly, mixed or neutral, or generally unfriendly to Israel?"

	Friendly Index	Public	Leaders
Democrats	60	76	
Liberals	46	44	
Congress	38	76	
Labour Unions	33	58	
President Reagan	16	42	
Republicans	12	24	
The Military	10	27	
Conservatives	8	11	
"Mainstream" Protestants	3	63	
Evangelical Protestants	-3	-20	
News Media	-5	9	
Catholics	-11	-53	
State Department	-15	-29	
Corporations	-17	-58	
Blacks	-41	-58	

\* Friendly Index... (the difference between the % who answered "Generally Friendly" and the % who answered "Generally Unfriendly").

small differences (amounting to about five per cent or less).

### The personal link with Israel

At the time of Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon, it was widely thought that American Jewish support for Israel might be fundamentally shaken. The June 1983 survey shows that while there was a slight dip in the proportion of those who said that they were "very pro-Israel" between December 1981 and August 1982 (from 43 per cent to 36 per cent), this group recovered its confidence after the 1982 ceasefire, and is now back to its original size.

The reason, according to the survey, is that there are very few American Jews who are "neutral" in their feeling towards Israel, and even fewer who are hostile. Israel and Israelis are intimately connected to the large proportion of U.S. Jews through their families and the network of personal friends. More than a third of the general sample of Jews and a slightly higher number of Jewish leaders say they have family living in Israel; more than two-thirds of the leaders and a third of the general community say they have personal friends there. Between 75 and 99 per cent of the two groups say they pay special attention to newspaper stories about Israel. They talk often about Israel with their American friends. Almost all the leaders have visited Israel once; three-quarters of them have made two or more visits. In the general Jewish community, 40 per cent say they have been to Israel at

the national sample and almost all (94 per cent) of the Jewish leaders contribute directly to Israeli charities: a third of the general community and 76 per cent of the leaders have contributed money to an American political candidate within the past year because "he/she would support Israel". A total of 86 per cent of the national sample say they are "pro-Israel"; only 6 per cent say they are "neutral"; and 3 per cent say they are "anti-Israel".

One of the differences between the leadership group and Jews in general is that the former have had their commitment to Israel fully tested. They visit Israel more often, give more money to Israeli "causes", write the media in defence of Israel more frequently. They are also much wealthier than most U.S. Jews. The median income for the leaders in 1983 is \$135,000; for other Jews the median is \$37,000.

### Dual loyalty or Israel first?

There is almost unanimous agreement among U.S. Jews that "U.S. support for Israel is in America's interest". And at least for public consumption U.S. Jews generally do not admit that "there are times when my devotion to Israel comes into conflict with my devotion to America". The key to their private allegiance is in the way they cast their votes in U.S. elections. Although only 24 per cent of the national sample admitted to a problem of dual loyalty — as measured by the "devotion" question — 73 per cent said that

"Jews should not vote for candidates who are unfriendly to Israel". When the survey explored exactly what was meant by "unfriendliness" towards Israel, it is clear that most Jews "implicitly rejected the right of non-Jews to take Israel to task". In casting their votes and responding to the American media, most Jews express personal opposition to anyone who is critical of Israel. The evidence is very clear that American Jews are staunchly opposed to non-Jewish Americans who criticise Israel, and that at election time Jews vote first for Israel and then for other reasons.

The survey results allow Mr. Cohen to construct a "friendliness index", based on the judgements Jews make about the attitude towards Israel among non-Jewish groups and institutions in American society (see table). The results provide an unusual insight into the paranoia that Israel inspires among U.S. Jews towards the rest of their countrymen. Democratic party leaders, political "liberals", congressmen and the labour unions head the list of "unfriendliness", while President Reagan, the Republicans, the Pentagon and Protestant religiousists trail well behind. It is of interest to note how poorly informed most Jews are regarding the Reagan administration and evangelical Protestants — the television preachers like Jerry Falwell, for example. The big gap between the Jewish public and their leaders shows how effective the leaders have been in communicating with the Republicans and the conservative Christians, and ensuring their "friendliness". The message hasn't reached most of the Jewish rank-and-file, however.

In their assessment of Americans considered to be hostile to Israel, Jewish leaders are even more paranoid than the general sample. American blacks are judged to be hostile by more than half of the leadership group; the state department comes next, followed by business corporations, the news media, and Roman Catholics. In every case, though national opinion polls show no evidence that these groups aim at damaging Israel's "security" or even reducing U.S. support for Israel, an attitude of criticism of specific Israeli government actions, or of scepticism towards Israeli demands on Washington, is enough to provoke massive Jewish hostility.

### American Jewish guilt?

Survey results like these demonstrate a high degree of social, political, religious and racial intolerance in the American Jewish community. This is a type of xenophobia of hatred towards "foreigners", though the "foreigners" in this case happen to be fellow Americans who are not Jewish. Contrary to much Jewish ideology on the subject, this intolerance is not the product of poor education, low income, or social isolation Jewish leaders, according to Mr. Cohen's figures, are university-educated, well-off and well integrated in American society. They are more intolerant of other Americans than the poorer Jewish community as a whole.

The ferocity of this Jewish antagonism towards blacks has come into the open recently with newspaper and other attacks on Jesse Jackson, the black Democratic candidate for president, who has long defended the Palestinian right to self-determination. An anti-Jackson advertisement published by a Jewish group in the New York Times last month makes the point explicitly: "We believe that Jesse Jackson is a danger to American Jews to the State of Israel and to America itself." This is exactly the order of priority which American Jewish sentiments follow.

Publicly Jewish leaders have tried to dissociate themselves from the attacks of "Jews Against Jackson" and other groups. But this is a public relations exercise. The survey results show that the hostility is deeply rooted and widespread. What American Jews fear — and what makes the public disavowals necessary — is that the targets of their hostility will retaliate. Several questions in the survey tap evidence of this apprehension. Most American Jews agree with the statement that "When it comes to the crunch few non-Jews will come to Israel's aid in its struggle to survive". More than half express the worry that "the U.S. may stop being a firm ally of Israel".

Difficult though it is for outsiders and non-Jews to understand the grounds for Jewish attitudes like these, the survey provides a convincing explanation for them. So antagonistic are American Jews towards other Americans over Israel, and over their own allegiance to Israel, that they feel a sense of guilt. They attribute to non-Jews what they themselves already know — that in their support for Israel they have made loyalty to their own country secondary. Although Jews say they expect anti-Semitism in the U.S., "may, in the future, become a serious problem", it is not traditional anti-Semitism which they expect. It is retaliation by non-Jews on Americans for a Jewish allegiance to Israel that breaks no ties with non-Jews.

David Knight is a writer on international and U.S. affairs from Washington D.C. He contributed this article to Middle East International, London.

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# New Zealand faces England cautiously

AUCKLAND (R) — England, eager to avenge its second test defeat by New Zealand have an early breakthrough in the third and final test Friday when opener Bruce Edgar was dismissed without scoring.

But the visitors here frustrated by the careful and composed batting of New Zealand captain Geoff Howarth and opener John Wright whose partnership at lunch was worth 67.

New Zealand won the second test by an innings and 132 runs while the first was drawn.

Captain Bob Willis made the early breakthrough when, bowling around the wicket, he had Edgar lbw in his second over with the New Zealand score on three.

But Howarth and Wright appeared to be in complete control, picking their runs, and neither was ever in any trouble.

All four fast bowlers performed

well but gained no help from the pitch. Both Norman Cowans and Neil Foster bowled a couple of bouncers which failed to disturb the batsmen. Ian Botham bowled more tightly than in the second test but did not look dangerous. Off-spinner Vic Marks was brought on 15 minutes before lunch to try to break the partnership, but without any success. He had a strong appeal for lbw against Howarth turned down in his first over.

Howarth and Wright hosted New Zealand's 50 in 86 minutes, and their own half century partnership two minutes later when Howarth swung a ball from Foster to the legside boundary for four.

The first hour brought 30 runs. England captain Willis worked hard Friday morning, changing his bowlers to vary the attack.

Howarth's decision to bat first after winning his third consecutive test may give New Zealand an advantage as the wicket appears docile and full of runs, but may break by the final day.

England, having to bowl first and bat last, have an uphill struggle to beat New Zealand and share the series and elected to give their bowling line-up more experience with the inclusion of off-spinner Marks.

The Somerset player was originally brought on tour only for one-way internationals and provincial games. But Leicestershire's young spinner Nick Cook bowled a long time in the first drawn test at Wellington without looking as if he would find the devastating form he showed against New Zealand in England last year.

## Lloyd, Daniel in doubt for World Series Cup final

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — West Indies skipper Clive Lloyd and medium pacer Wayne Daniel here Friday night were in doubt for Saturday's vital Benson and Hedges World Series Cup cricket match against Australia at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG).

The West Indies needs only to win Saturday to take out the best of three finals series following their comfortable nine wicket victory over Australia in the day-night first final in Sydney last Wednesday.

But Friday Lloyd and Daniel were involved in fielding accidents at a three-hour practice session at the MCG.

Lloyd jarred the index finger of his left hand and received treatment from the team physiotherapist.

Daniel hurt his left hand. He was rubbing it gingerly in the changerooms later and said it was very tender.

Batsman Gus Logie has already been ruled out with an injured hand suffered in a practice session in Sydney.

### Jones replaces Yallop

Meanwhile Australian test batsman Graham Yallop has been ruled out of the team to tour the West Indies later this month.

Australian Cricket Board chairman Fred Bennett said here Friday the board had decided not to

take Yallop on the 12-week tour. Bennett said that 22 year old Victorian Dean Jones would take Yallop's place in the side.

Yallop, 31, has not played for Australia since early January when he injured the medial ligament in his right knee while fielding in a Benson and Hedges world Series Cup match against the West Indies at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

"When I first heard I was a little upset for Australia's sake and Yallop's because he is such a great player," Jones said.

"But I am happy to be going and I'll try and see if I can play as well as him."

"It will be a great trip, and I hope I can learn from Hughes and Border."

Jones has played only three one-day internationals for Australia with his highest score being 40 not out against Pakistan in Adelaide two weeks ago.

"I feel my form has been quite good up to this stage but sometimes I have been dismissed after getting a good start," Jones said.

"I hope I can get the same start in all my matches and go on from there, but I expect I will be pretty nervous tomorrow, especially in front of my home crowd."

Australian captain Kim Hughes was disappointed Yallop would not be able to tour.

"Graham has had a good season and has shown himself to be a fine player," he said.

## West Ham fields brilliantly despite severe injury crisis

LONDON (AP) — West Ham United, decimated by a string of crippling injuries, is playing as if nothing had happened.

In years gone by, the absence of a couple of key players would have disrupted the finely-tuned West Ham pattern of play. But suddenly, the East London team is coping brilliantly with the severest injury crisis in the English Soccer League.

Its three England internationals — Trevor Brooking, Alan Devonshire and Alvin Martin — are all missing. So are strikers Paul Goddard and Steve Whitton, also missing.

Paul Hilton, bought for £80,000 from Bury last week to ease the crisis, is all by another casualty.

And c Tuesday, midfielder Geoff Fux became the club's latest long-term injury victim. An upcoming groin operation will keep him out of action for six weeks.

That makes eight West Ham men missing. Many of the injured are in plaster with broken bones. Others are about to start light straining only.

And yet, a quick glance at the first division standings shows West Ham still in third place — exactly where it was one month ago with an almost injury-free squad.

"This is the best squad I have

ever played with," says Brooking, the veteran midfield playmaker.

"At the start of the season, I knew this was our strongest squad but I didn't realise we were going to stretch it to the limits like this."

Delighted with the pride, passion and skill shown by youngsters like Tony Cottee, Paul Allen and Bobby Barnes — all of whom normally play in the reserves — Brooking continued:

"The spirit and attitude in the club is fantastic. The younger players realised what had been achieved in the first half of the season and were determined not to let it slip."

"The kids are doing us proud."

Last Saturday's 3-0 League win over Stoke was followed up on Tuesday night by a useful point gained in a 1-1 draw away from home at Queens Park Rangers.

The result took West Ham to within five points of Liverpool at the top of the standings, and just a point behind second-placed Manchester United.

Apart from its impressive league position — West Ham has never previously finished a season higher than sixth — the team is also in the last 16 of the F.A. Cup competition.

On Saturday, the skilful crop of West Ham reserves face a stern

test of character when they visit Coventry, which began the season as favourites for relegation but is now in eighth position and pushing for a place in next season's UEFA Cup.

While West Ham's problems appear only to have motivated the rest of the team, cracks in Liverpool's armour are beginning to show following injuries to Graeme Souness, Kenny Dalglish and Mark Lawrenson, arguably its three best players.

The champions were held to a shock 2-2 draw at home by third division Walsall in the first leg of the milk cup semi-final on Tuesday and have not won for four matches.

Liverpool boss Joe Fagan will be anxious to end that sequence with a home victory over Arsenal on Saturday in a match that could be crucial to the managerial future of his opposite number, Don Howe.

Howe, formerly Arsenal's coach, was put in temporary charge of the team following the sacking of Terry Neill.

He was given until the end of the season to produce a winning side and is expected to be given the job on a permanent basis only if he gets Arsenal into next season's UEFA Cup.

## Promoter offers \$32,500 for mile record

WANGANUI, New Zealand (R) — A New Zealand promoter Thursday offered local, Australian and British runners what is believed to be the biggest prize in world athletics — 50,000 dollars (\$32,500) to cover the mile in less than three minutes and 50 seconds.

Russell Sears said he had approval from the New Zealand Amateur Athletic Association (NZAAA) to stage a mile race on Wanganui's grass track on Feb. 25.

The field would comprise Britons David Moorcroft and Peter Elliott, Mike Hillard of Australia,

New Zealand's John Walker and several other New Zealanders.

The top prize, said by Sears to be covered with an insurance policy with Lloyds of London, will go into an officially sanctioned trust fund for the runner who does better than 3:50. The world record is 3:47.33, held by Sebastian Coe of Britain.

If the target time is reached, an additional 50,000 dollars will go to the NZAAA. But nothing will be paid if the race is slower than 3:50.

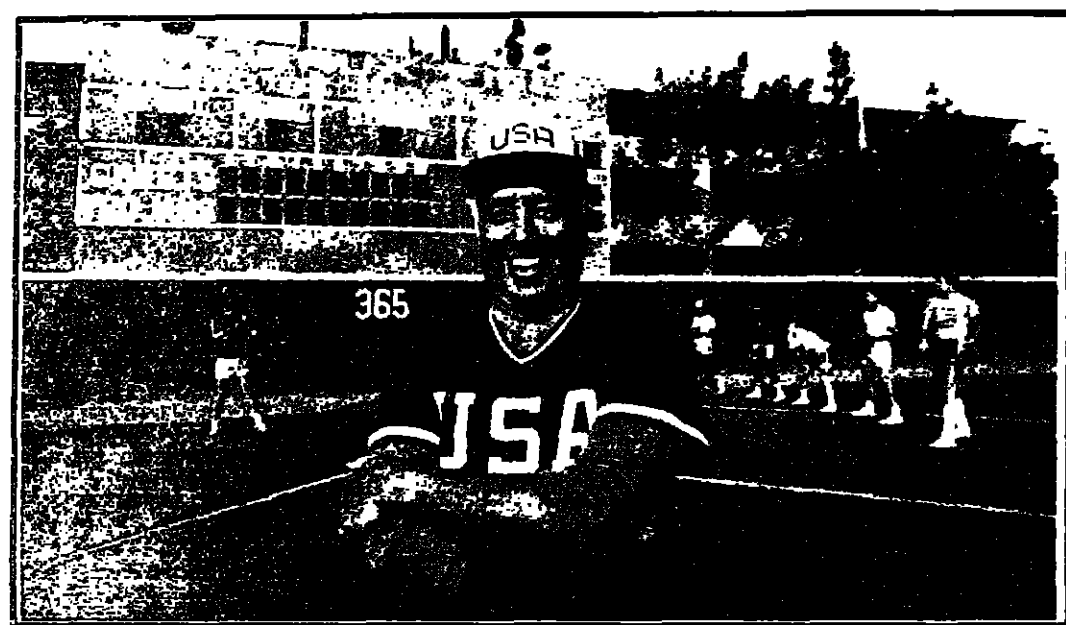
The prize will be shared if more than one runner beats the target mark, Sears said.

Walker, 32, was the first runner to break the 3:50 mark with a time of 3:49.4 in Gothenburg, Sweden, in 1975. He has since recorded 3:49.08.

Moorcroft is the world 5,000 metres record-holder but withdrew from last month's New Zealand-Australia track series because of illness.

Wanganui's track is reputed to be fast and three-time Olympic champion Peter Snell of New Zealand set a world mile record of 3:54.4 here in 1962.

The fastest time on the track is 3:53.8 by Jurgen May of West Germany in 1965.



U.S. Olympic baseball team coach Rod Dedeaux trains young American athletes in preparation for the demonstration baseball tournament at the 1984 Summer Olympic Games in Los Angeles, California. Athletes, fans and officials worldwide are

hoping that a strong showing in Los Angeles will lead to eventual official Olympic status for the popular American sport. (Photo from Press & Publications Service)

## Baseball athletes push for Olympic status

By Curt Holbreich

BASEBALL catcher Ralph Bower and 75 other American athletes are vying for 20 spots on the U.S. Olympic baseball team, one of six to play in a demonstration tournament in Los Angeles, California, at the Olympic Games in mid-1984.

Tickets for the final two games to be played at Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles are nearly sold out, and international and U.S. baseball officials hope that kind of support will make baseball an official sport for the 1988 Summer Olympics in Seoul, South Korea.

For the U.S. players, the lure of the Olympics is very real.

Howes and Bower were among at least 3,000 players attending recent open one-day tryouts, according to Richard Case, executive

director of the U.S. Baseball Federation. He calls it the most extensive tryout programme the federation has undertaken.

Only the top-rated players were assured a shot at the United States' first Olympic baseball team since a 1964 demonstration in Tokyo. Most of the athletes are college students. All are between the ages of 17 and 22.

"The cream of the amateur crop," said Rod Dedeaux, U.S. team coach from the University of Southern California, "For such a new thing, it's amazing the intensity I've seen from players and coaches about baseball in the Olympics."

Dedeaux says he is looking to identify 35-40 top players, whose progress will be watched carefully. Final selections are scheduled for June 1.

The competition for the U.S. team in Los Angeles will be tough. Outstanding teams from Cuba, Nicaragua, Taiwan, Italy and South Korea are in the field. Many of the players on these teams are in their late 20s and more experienced in international competition than the U.S. players.

Players talk of choosing a career as a paid professional player for U.S. baseball teams or retaining amateur status (non-paying) and holding out for the Olympics.

Despite its demonstration status, baseball has a special place in modern Olympic history. The record crowd for a single event was at a baseball game in Berlin, Germany.

And only now are baseball players realising they, like other amateur athletes, could have a chance to share in the Olympic dream. — USA Today

## Hearns to fight Minchillo

DETROIT (R) — American Thomas Hearns will have an eye on bigger future clashes when he makes the first defence of his World Boxing Council (WBC) super-welterweight title against Luigi Minchillo of Italy on Saturday.

Hearns, fighting at the Joe Louis arena in his home town, will be in the ring for only the second time since winning the crown in December, 1982, with a unanimous 15-round decision over Puerto Rican Wilfred Benitez.

Hearns won a 10-round decision against compatriot Murray Sutherland in a non-title bout in Atlantic City last July.

Hearns' activity has been limited because of repeated injuries to his right hand. He wants to dispose of Minchillo to set up future bouts with Panamanian Roberto Duran and Americans Marvin Hagler or Sugar Ray Leonard.

Duran is recognised as World Boxing Association (WBA) junior-middleweight champion, and Hearns says he wants a title unification match with Duran.

## Millionaire Maxwell plans to shake up English soccer

By Robert Woodward

Reuter

LONDON — Millionaire Robert Maxwell, having built up the last decade publishing firm in the world, now looks set to shake up the upper echelons of the soccer world with his controversial business skills.

After days of press speculation, Czechoslovak-born Maxwell confirmed he is discussing the possible takeover of Manchester United, one of Britain's richest and best-loved clubs.

He aims to buy the 51 per cent stake in United held by present chairman Martin Edwards, whose family has controlled the club since 1965.

Many soccer fans will see the arrival of Maxwell, currently chairman of third division Oxford United, as a welcome sign that English soccer, languishing in a trough of falling attendances and heavy debts, has at last seen the need to put the game on a sound financial footing.

But others will regard the chequered reputation of Maxwell, who has made a fortune since arriving penniless in Britain 40 years ago, as an unwelcome addition to England's national game.

Maxwell was born Jan Ludwig Hoch, the son of poor Carpathian peasants, in 1923. His mother died in the concentration camp at Auschwitz, his father was shot by the Germans and their young son only escaped death, after being arrested for resistance work, because he was under 18.

Maxwell escaped and made his way to Britain in 1940. He joined the army, was made an officer because of his bravery, and became a British subject after being decorated with the military cross by Field Marshal Bernard "Monty" Montgomery.

After the war he was head of press and public relations in the British sector of Berlin and in 1951 took over the firm which was to form the basis of his Pergamon publishing empire.

During the 1960s his rise to

popular fame as the "socialist millionaire" was spectacular, spearheading the "I'm backing Britain" publicity campaign and becoming a Labour Member of Parliament in 1964.

But in 1969 things started going wrong. He lost a battle for control of the "news of the world" popular Sunday newspaper to Australian Rupert Murdoch and in 1970 he lost his parliamentary seat.

Soon after these setbacks his career reached its nadir. A report on Pergamon by the department of trade and industry contained a sharp personal attack on the energetic Maxwell, calling him "not... a person who can be relied upon to exercise proper stewardship of a publicly quoted company."

This opinion, strongly contested by Maxwell in the courts, will worry soccer's officialdom. Manchester United are considered a national institution and many fans would be upset at the thought of the club being run more as a Maxwell-style business than a soccer outfit.

United fans may doubt Maxwell's allegiance to the club — he was recently associated with a takeover bid for first division Birmingham City — and will be disillusioned by the events at Oxford since Maxwell rescued them from bankruptcy a year ago.

He caused widespread supported protests last year when he tried unsuccessfully to merge the club with nearby Reading to play under a new name at a ground near Oxford.

These problems were largely forgotten this season as Oxford knocked out a series of top clubs, including Manchester United, in both the major domestic cup competitions.

Oxford fans complained over sharply increased entry prices during the cup run, but the publishing magnate will regard the large profit the club made as proof of a successful chairman.

Despite his support of Oxford, the soccer-made Maxwell has made no secret of the fact he is attracted by the glory and glamour attached to a top-flight club.

And big clubs come no bigger than Manchester United.

Founded by a group of railway workers, the club's golden age began in 1945 when Matt Busby became manager. Under his guidance the "red devil" became synonymous with attacking football and the 1958 Munich air crash, which killed eight of the gifted team and seriously injured Busby, helped make the club world famous.

Present United manager Ron Atkinson, a former Oxford United captain, has spent millions building up a star-studded team, which is captained by Bryan Robson, English soccer's most expensive player.

But despite a series of Football Association (F.A.) Cup triumphs, United's fans — nicknamed the "red army" — look jealously at the success of nearby Liverpool, perennial league champions and three times European Cup winners.

Many observers believe Maxwell will not only have to pay around £10 million (\$14 million) to buy Edwards's stake in the club but will also have to pledge a further hefty sum for the strengthening of United's squad.

This injection could push United into the elite of European big-spenders, along with Juventus and Barcelona. But after a decade of expensive flops in the transfer market, the fans are increasingly aware that big money does not guarantee success.

After all, when United won their first and only European Cup final in 1968, the heroes of the 4-1 victory over Benfica were the legendary Bobby Charlton and George Best, both of whom cost United nothing.

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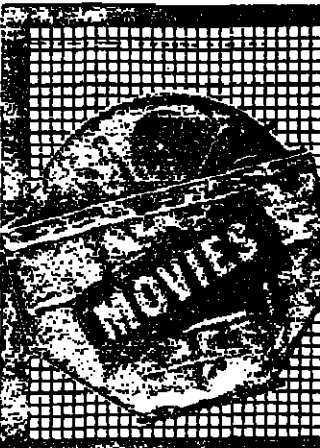
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"Arabic film"

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**MOVIE..MOVIE**  
(Colour)

Performances: 3:30-8 - 8:30

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(Colour)

John Travolta

Performances: 12-3-5:30-8







## Nicaragua unveils plans for long-awaited elections

MANAGUA (R) — Nicaragua's Sandinist rulers unveiled their plan for general elections to be held next year, the first since the left-wing movement took power in the 1979 revolution.

A controversial draft law, which proposes election of a president, a vice-president and a 90-member constituent assembly, was presented at a ceremony here Wednesday attended by the diplomatic corps and foreign dignitaries.

Several aspects of the law, drawn up by the ruling National Sandinist Liberation Front (FSLN), have been criticised by opposition parties as giving unfair advantage to the incumbents.

Wednesday's introduction was merely ceremonial. The draft law will be debated by the Council of State, the non-elected legislative body set up after the revolution, and government opponents before being voted into law in two weeks.

The date for the 1985 election will be announced officially on Feb. 21, the 50th anniversary of the death of Augusto Cesar Sandino who led a successful military campaign against U.S. intervention in Nicaragua. The Sandinists took their name in honour of Sandino, killed by former President Anastasio Somoza's father.

The United States has said failure of the Sandinists to hold elections was proof of their undemocratic outlook and used it as a reason for financing about 10,000 right-wing guerrillas trying to overthrow the Nicaraguan government.

The electoral process stalled on Feb. 4 when the Council of State announced that elections would be postponed until facts surrounding two air attacks against Nicaragua were revealed. But on Monday the council reversed its decision to delay the elections.

Sources close to the government said the delay had been mistakenly interpreted to mean that elections would not be held. Nicaragua charged that neighbouring Honduras carried out the air strikes, which killed four Nicaraguan soldiers and destroyed fuel depots and a radio communications centre.

Honduras denied responsibility, but Nicaraguan rebels based in Honduras claimed they had conducted the raids.

Honduras is Washington's closest ally in Central America and has repeatedly been accused by Nicaragua of aiding the rebels under the cover of joint U.S.-Honduran military exercises.

**Rebel leaders meet**  
WASHINGTON (R) — Leaders of the two main guerrilla groups fighting the Nicaraguan government held a secret meeting in Miami to discuss the war, rebel sources said.

Adolfo Calero, principal leader of the Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN), met Egen Pastora,

military chief of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance (ARDE), the sources told Reuters.

They described the meeting as friendly.

The sources added that discussion centred on "general aspects of the war" against Nicaragua's leftist Sandinist government.

The 10,000-strong FDN, based in Honduras according to widespread press reports is funded by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency as well as by other countries.

Mr. Pastora, a former Sandinist guerrilla better known as Commander Zero, is military leader of ARDE's smaller force based in Nicaragua near the Costa Rican border.

The sources said ARDE had sent a message last month to the FDN suggesting co-ordination of their attack against the Sandinists.

The sources would not say if co-ordinated action against the Sandinist government was discussed at the meeting. They said previous talks on unity between the two groups had been unsuccessful.

At a press conference in Washington last week, Mr. Calero admitted there were differences between himself and Mr. Alfonso Robelo, political leader of ARDE.

Mr. Calero described the differences as minor and said he felt sure they could be overcome. He added: "Robelo is a Social Democrat and I don't like any kind of Socialism."

## Washington to send 1,700 troops to Honduras

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. Defence Department said about 1,700 servicemen would go to Honduras for various missions including reconnaissance and small-scale joint exercises until major manoeuvres begin later this month.

It said 300 military intelligence troops and a number of observation planes would be sent to fly "peacetime reconnaissance" missions.

These would be in support of exercises scheduled for March and April in which Honduran soldiers and forces from the U.S. Southern Command in Panama would take part, the Pentagon said.

Defence officials would not disclose any details of the reconnaissance missions, except to say they would be flown over internationally-recognised airspace.

The Pentagon said the reconnaissance would be conducted by men of the 224th Military Intelligence Battalion, from Hunter Army Airfield, near Savannah, Georgia.

In addition, the Pentagon said around 800 U.S. troops who took part in exercises in Honduras, would stay in the country for further exercises later this year.

United States-Honduran military exercises, the largest to be held in Central America, formally ended Wednesday.

The six-month-long war games, known as Big Pine II, involved up to 5,000 U.S. and 6,000 Honduran troops.

## Malaysian Sultans elect new king

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — The Sultan of Johore, the head of Malaysia's only private army, was elected the country's new king Thursday.

An official announcement said Malaysia's nine hereditary rulers chose 51-year-old Sultan Mahmood Iskandar, who has a penchant for wearing military uniforms and sidearms, to succeed King Ahmad Shah, whose term in office expires in April.

The sultans, who elect a king from their ranks every five years, had been expected to choose Sultan Idris Shah of Perak. But his death last week threw open the question of succession and the ruler of Malaysia's southernmost state emerged as the most eligible candidate on seniority.

The Sultan of Johore, described by political analysts as independent and strong-willed, was convicted of culpable homicide after a shooting incident in 1977. But he was later pardoned by his father and reinstated.

He was selected as king by the rulers in a secret ballot after a three-day meeting.

The man who will take the title Yang Di-Pertuan Agong as monarch of Malaysia's 13.5 million people was removed from the Johore line of succession in 1961 for his erratic behaviour. He was reinstated as crown prince shortly before his father died in 1981.

The new Sultan of Perak, Raja Azlan Shah who succeeded his late cousin, was named deputy king.

The election issue has dominated the Malaysian political scene since last August when the government of Prime Minister

Datuk Seri Mahathir Mohamad introduced legislation to curb the powers of the king and the sultans.

The rulers opposed the changes, sparking a bitter constitutional feud which divided the traditionally royalist Malays and landed Mr. Mahathir with the biggest political challenge of his two and a half years in office.

The deadlock was broken in December with a compromise which left the sultans' powers intact but prevented the king from delaying legislation passed by parliament.

One of the motivating factors behind the government's action was the likelihood of independent-minded rulers such as the Sultans of Johore or Perak becoming king, political analysts said.

## Argentina rejects British rule of Falklands

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Argentina cannot accept British sovereignty over the Falkland (Malvinas) Islands as a condition for normalising relations between the two countries, Foreign Minister Dante Caputo said.

But, he told reporters, Argentina's new elected government would continue working for a peaceful settlement of the dispute.

The Foreign Minister said Wednesday he was preparing a reply to recent British proposals for restoring normal relations, which were conveyed to Buenos Aires on Jan. 26.

Mr. Caputo publicly rejected the British proposals in Caracas last week but said he would send a formal reply to London in the next few days.

Britain has meanwhile rejected a public Argentine proposal for

normalising relations, based on a demilitarisation of the Falkland Islands under U.N. supervision and on the resumption of talks within the framework of existing U.N. resolutions.

"We cannot accept that starting talks with Great Britain would be a tacit acceptance of English sovereignty (over the Falklands)," Mr. Caputo said. "Any start to negotiations must take into account the de facto situation of the Malvinas and the consideration of Argentine rights in the southern islands," Mr. Caputo said.

"We reiterate our negotiating proposal and we will devote all our imagination and goodwill to take the Malvinas issue back to where it stood on April 2, 1982."

That was the date on which Argentina's former military gov-

ernment invaded the Falklands, which Britain recaptured 10 weeks later.

Since then Argentina has refused to declare a formal cessation of hostilities without a British commitment to resume negotiations on the islands' future.

Mr. Caputo said in Caracas that talks need not begin with the issue of sovereignty, but it could not be excluded from the agenda.

On Wednesday he announced he would go to Geneva this month to address the U.N. Human Rights Commission and the U.N. Conference on Disarmament, after which he would visit Mexico and Austria.

Meanwhile, government sources said President Raul Alfonsin would visit Brazil in March and Spain next June.

## U.S., Soviets carry out separate space missions

CAPE CANAVERAL (R) — A record eight astronauts whirled around the world Thursday, five from the United States planning a second space walk without lifelines and three from the Soviet Union starting a mission expected to last several months.

"It's getting to be pretty populated up here," Vance Brand, commander of the U.S. shuttle Challenger, said Wednesday night when he heard that the Soviet Union had launched the latest team of cosmonauts to man the cigar-shaped Soyuz-7 space station.

Mr. Brand, 52, was the pilot of the Apollo spacecraft which linked up with a Soviet Soyuz craft in 1975 in the only joint manned space mission between the superpowers.

The latest Soviet mission has taken on new significance in the light of President Reagan's call for a permanently manned U.S. space station, a challenge to the Kremlin for new Soviet achievements in the space race.

The Americans scored a space triumph on Tuesday when astronauts Bruce McCandless and

Robert Stewart donned rocket powered backpacks to become the first men to fly alone in space unattached to their mothership.

The two prototype backpacks, which look like uncomfortable armchairs and cost \$40 million to develop, are aimed at adding a new dimension to the American space effort and would be invaluable in constructing a space station.

Challenger, making its fourth flight, continued to operate without major problems although a couple of minor troubles gave the crew something to do Wednesday.

Pilot Robert (Hoot) Gibson was given the dubious honour of fixing what Flight Director Harold Draughn called "a problem with the potty."

The waste control system has caused problems to almost all of 10 shuttle flights so far. Challenger's latest flight was no exception and Mr. Draughn said: "Something got froze up in there and had to be chipped away."

Mr. Draughn also said the crew had run into difficulty trying to dump some waste and surplus drinking water overboard.

## Chinese premier says Korean re-unification not feasible

PEKING (AP) — Chinese Premier Zhao Ziyang told Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke on Wednesday that China no longer believes it feasible to re-unify Korea under one government.

Mr. Zhao's remark, reported by the Australian and confirmed by Foreign Ministry, was the clearest signal yet that China sees irreconcilable differences between the Chinese-backed North and U.S.-supported South, separated for more than three decades.

"I put to him the unavoidable reality of two governments, two distinct entities on the Korean peninsula," Mr. Hawke told a news conference after conferring with Zhao for three hours. "That has to be recognised."

Mr. Hawke, who flew to Peking on Tuesday for a six-day tour after visiting South Korea, also said he conveyed South Korea's interest in friendly ties with China and that Mr. Zhao listened with "keen interest."

A senior Australian official, who briefed reporters on condition that he not be identified, said Mr. Zhao told Mr. Hawke "it isn't feasible to reunify the country" under one government.

China always has backed North Korea, which offered a surprise plan for Korea's future Jan. 10 that proposed South Korea keep its current social system. The Chinese, who have been working privately to ease tensions on the peninsula, had said the proposal was "reasonable."

## Indian extremist leader to be executed Saturday

NEW DELHI (R) — Maqbool Butt, the Kashmir extremist leader whose release was demanded by the killer of an Indian diplomat in Britain, will be executed in a Delhi jail on Saturday, the Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency said Thursday.

The way was cleared for hanging Butt, who is under sentence of death for murder, when President Zail Singh rejected his plea for clemency following the weekend shooting of the Birmingham-based diplomat. Butt's release was demanded by the self-styled Kashmir Liberation Army which abducted the diplomat, 48-year-old Ravindra Mhatre. The kidnappers also wanted a ransom of one million sterling (\$1.4 million).

The extremist leader is being held in Delhi's Tihar Jail, where top security prisoners are kept. Security was tightened round the jail following the diplomat's murder.

Butt, an Indian army deserter, is a leader of the Kashmir Liberation Front, an underground organisation opposed to Indian administration of predominantly Muslim Kashmir.

Butt was sentenced to death for the murder of an Indian intelligence officer.

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## Burma rejects N. Koreans' plea

RANGOON (R) — Burma's Supreme Court Thursday rejected an appeal against death sentences imposed on two North Korean army officers for last October's Rangoon bomb blasts which killed 21 people, including four South Korean cabinet ministers.

The three-member bench, presided over by Justice Hla Phone, said evidence established that Major Zin Mo and Captain Kang Min Chul had committed premeditated murder by blowing up the Martyrs' Memorial here.

Three bombs went off at the memorial on Oct. 9 only minutes before it was to be visited by South Korean President Chun Doo Hwan.

Defence lawyers had argued that the two men deserved clemency because they were only obeying orders, but the Supreme Court said this plea was inadmissible.

The court also rejected a defence contention that the officers' conviction in December had been based only on Kang Min Chul's confession. It said the confession supported indisputable evidence of the North Koreans' guilt.

The earlier trial was told the two men had been part of an assassination squad whose third member, a captain, was killed evading arrest. The prosecution said they were acting on the orders of North Korean General Kang

Chang Su.

Before the trial, the Burmese government accused North Korea of responsibility for the blasts and broke off diplomatic relations. North Korea denied the Burmese charge.

Earlier lawyers for the North Koreans said that if the three-member Supreme Court bench turned down the appeal they could ask for a review of the case by a five-member bench of the court.

They added that at the end of the legal process the prisoners could appeal for clemency from the Council of State, whose chairman, President San Yu, could stay an execution indefinitely by refusing to sign death warrants.

## Kashmir minister reaffirms loyalty to India

NEW DELHI (R) — The chief minister of the disputed northern border territory of Jammu and Kashmir has said his loyalty to India is total and unquestionable, the Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency reported Thursday.

"I am an Indian and will always remain an Indian," Farooq Abdullah told the state's assembly.

Mr. Abdullah was answering charges by supporters of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's Congress (I) Party that he had links with the Jammu-Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) which seeks independence for the strategic province.

The Birmingham-based JKLF was picked as a go-between with British police by the Kashmir Liberation Army which kidnapped

Indian diplomat Ravindra Mhatre, who was found dead on Sunday.

Congress secretary-general G.K. Moopasur said in Delhi on Tuesday Mr. Mhatre's slaying was the "evil fruit" of the policy pursued by Mr. Abdullah's government of "befriending communal and secessionist elements in Jammu and Kashmir."

"Kashmir will always remain a part of India. We have nothing to do with the dispute between India and Pakistan over the state," Mr. Abdullah told the assembly.

Mr. Abdullah denied charges by Congress opponents that he and three leaders of the JKLF had addressed a public meeting in the

state's capital Srinagar in 1974.

But Mrs. Gandhi's son and political heir apparent Mr. Rajiv, who is also a secretary-general of the Congress (I), said Wednesday he had heard of a photograph showing Mr. Abdullah with Front President Amanullah Khan.

Mr. Rajiv, who visited Mr. Mhatre's parents in Bombay, later told reporters it was for the central government to decide on action against Mr. Farooq's government.

The diplomat's killing added a new twist to increasing violence in Kashmir, where Mrs. Gandhi's supporters have been campaigning against Mr. Abdullah, accusing him of siding with pro-Pakistani elements.

## Kashmir again becomes major security concern for India

By Jeremy Clift  
Reuters

NEW DELHI — The picturesque Himalayan territory of Jammu and Kashmir has again become a flashpoint for Indian security with the killing of an Indian diplomat in the English midlands, apparently by an underground Kashmiri organisation.

At the same time relations with neighbouring Pakistan, fragile at the best of times, have taken a fresh turn for the worse. Rajiv Gandhi, the politician son of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, has predicted that Pakistan could invade the Indian sector of Kashmir within a year.

The killing of the diplomat was a bloody new twist to increasing violence in the Indian-administered sector of Kashmir, which borders Pakistan and China.

Even before the murder of Ravindra Harehsa Mhatre, 48, the second-ranking official at the Indian High Commission in Birmingham, New Delhi had voiced heightened concern at the activities of what it termed anti-national forces in the sensitive mountain territory.

The former princely state has been in turmoil since disputed elec-

tions last summer to the state assembly, won by the Kashmir-based National Conference Party.

Indian Home Minister P.C. Sethi, in a stern letter last month to Kashmir's Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah, said the secessionist and anti-national activities of certain groups had serious implications for national security.

India and Pakistan have fought three wars since independence from Britain in 1947, two of them over Kashmir. India now controls about two-thirds of the region and Pakistan the rest.

Mr. Sethi told Mr. Abdullah, son of the legendary Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah, the Lion of Kashmir who died in September 1982, that separatists had stepped up efforts to create dissatisfaction and undermine allegiance to India.

Mr. Abdullah, accused by Mrs. Gandhi's Congress (I) Party of siding with pro-Pakistani sympathisers, was summoned to Delhi for talks with the prime minister and Mr. Sethi.

On returning home, he ordered the arrest of about 150 supporters of right-wing Muslim fundamentalist organisations and told the assembly that the accession of the largely Muslim territory to

predominantly Hindu India was final.

But the killing in Birmingham is likely to add grist to criticism by Congress (I), which is in opposition in Kashmir.

Opposition leaders had dismissed a Congress (I) campaign against Mr. Abdullah as part of preparations for national elections, due to be held in the next 11 months.

But Mr. Mhatre's murder gave greater credibility to central government fears of increased secessionist activity.

The Indian government had already stepped up intelligence operations in the region, but no one had previously heard of the Kashmir Liberation Army, the group which claimed responsibility for the Birmingham kidnapping.

Delhi's Hindustan Times newspaper said the kidnapping could be linked to in-fighting within the so-called Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front, which is considered pro-Pakistan.

The issue dates to partition in 1947. Kashmir, with its largely Muslim population, was expected to go to Pakistan, a state formed for the Muslims of the subcontinent.

But Hari Singh, the Hindu

Maharaja who ruled the area, wanted to remain independent. Faced with a revolt in the west of the territory and the intervention of Pathan tribesmen from Pakistan, he signed an instrument of accession to India in return for Indian military aid.

Fighting between India and Pakistan dragged on into 1948. Under a United Nations ceasefire signed the next year, a third of the territory remained in Pakistani hands. Two more wars in 1965 and 1971 left the arrangement virtually unaltered.

A U.N. observer force now remains along the line of control separating Indian and Pakistani forces.

But Pakistan and India still claim sovereignty over the entire region. In a statement of Saturday, the Indian government branded as illegal reported Pakistani plans to build an airfield with Chinese help at Gijit in the north of the Pakistan-administered sector.

The statement coincided with fresh tension between the two sides, with India complaining strongly about Pakistani plans to expel two Indian airline employees.

Using some of the strongest language since India and Pakistan started fresh attempts to improve

relations a year ago, a spokesman for the Indian External Affairs Ministry said a planned visit by Pakistani next week by the Indian information minister was likely to be cancelled because of the incident.

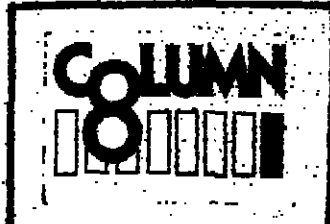
India has repeatedly voiced concern at U.S. supplies of sophisticated weapons to Pakistan, including F-16 fighters.

Both Mrs. Gandhi and her 39-year-old son, who is a secretary-general of the Congress (I) Party, have said Pakistan appears to be receiving more arms than it needs.

The Indian government is worried about what it sees as the increased activity of pro-Pakistani or secessionist Muslim fundamentalist groups.

Mr. Rajiv, who told a British newspaper that Pakistan could strike in Kashmir within a year, was also quoted as saying the internal situation in the Indian-ruled sector of Kashmir was hindering intelligence-gathering.

Mr. Abdullah, 47, a British-trained doctor, has come under particular fire for his links with Moulvi Farooq, the Mirwaiz or Muslim religious leader of the Kashmir Valley who has been accused of pro-Pakistani sympathies.



## Kidney donor comes back to life

CHICAGO (R) — A man declared legally dead and about to have his kidneys removed for donation to another patient suddenly came back to life, doctors said. Alan Supergan, 20, was reported in critical condition at a hospital in Libertyville, Illinois following the incident. He had been injured in a car accident last week and declared legally dead. When surgeons prepared to remove his kidneys for a transplant, he suddenly coughed and showed other signs of life.

## Stomach stapling helps dieters

BOSTON (R) — Stapling shut part of the stomach of very fat people to help them lose weight works no better than a strict diet, a team of Danish doctors reported. But once they lose weight, people who have had the operation have a better chance of keeping the lost pounds off than those who have lost weight by dieting, according to a study reported in the New England Journal of Medicine. Each year about 10,000 Americans have the surgery, in which a staple gun is used to close off part of the stomach. The research is the first extensive evaluation of the technique which is used for very fat people who have not been helped by other weight reduction programmes. With a "smaller" stomach, the patient feels full sooner and eats less.

## 40 believed drowned in India

NEW DELHI (R) — About 40 people were believed to have drowned when a river boat capsized near the north Indian city of Lucknow, the Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency reported. The accident happened on the Gomti River which passes through Lucknow. PTI said it was not known if there were any survivors.

## E. Germany says '1984' depicts West

EAST BERLIN (R) — "Nineteen eighty-four," George Orwell's novel, accurately portrays the West, not the East, East German Deputy Culture Minister Klaus Hoppecke said. Mr. Orwell's "big brother" pictured "the multinational concerns and their bloodhounds, that crush national sovereignty, order the removal or installation of presidents, plunder economies, dictate disinformation," Mr. Hoppecke said in the ideology monthly Einheits (Unity). "The grotesque images in the book apply to the characteristic features of capitalist reality," and efforts to use "1984" for anti-Communist propaganda were "an expression of the historic defensive of capitalism." The novel is banned in East Germany.

## Cat-breeding farm set up in China

PEKING (R) — A group of young peasants has begun a scheme to breed and train enough cats to wipe out the teeming rat population of Miaotan county, the China Youth News said. It said members of the local production brigade had set up the first cat-breeding farm in the central province of Hubei, and were boning up on zoological textbooks in hopes of "applying scientific methods to train cats to kill rats." Every household in Miaotan county should have a cat by this spring, and the project should be further expanded by 1985, the daily added. China's perennial anti-rodent campaign has been stepped up for the current lunar Year of the Rat.

## 'Bubble boy' leaves cocoon

HOUSTON (R) — David, the 12-year-old "bubble boy," finally emerged from a germ-free cocoon he entered at birth, kissed his mother for the first time — and demanded a drink of Coca-Cola. The boy was put in the sterile hospital bubble as soon as he was born because his body was unable to produce cells to fight bacteria. When doctors let him out of quarantine to treat him for fever and sickness they said he would never have to return to the cocoon.

## GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN  
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Both vulnerable. East deals.

**NORTH**  
♠ A86  
♥ AKJ3  
♦ AJ84  
♣ J6

**WEST**  
♠ K742  
♥ Q109  
♦ 752  
♣ A84

**EAST**  
♠ Q1093  
♥ 854  
♦ KQ10  
♣ 1053

**SOUTH**  
♠ J5  
♥ 762  
♦ 963  
♣ KQ972

The bidding:  
East South West North  
Pass Pass Pass 1 ♣  
Pass 1 NT Pass 3 NT  
Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Two of ♣.

In 1955, a strong British team came to New York to try to wrest the Bermuda Bowl from the United States, which had won the trophy every year since the best teams of Europe and the United States had first competed for the trophy in 1950. One of its stars was the late Adam Meredith, a mercurial player known for opening three-card spade suits and other eccentricities.

In one room the United States played one no trump

**MEREDITH'S MOMENT**

DEAR READERS: We have had many requests over the years for those hands that we consider to be our favorites. That makes quite a list. For the time being, therefore, we are devoting the Sunday col-

umn to a series of famous hands. At the end of the series, we will go back to our weekly question and answer column.

and made six tricks. Meredith became declarer at three no trump on the auction shown, and West led a spade.

Declarer was not a favorite. The defenders need only hold up the ace of clubs one round to shut South out of his hand forever, and that is exactly what the British defenders did against routine play.

Meredith ducked the opening lead but won the spade continuation with the ace. Now he came up with one of the greatest deceptive plays we have ever seen—he led the jack of clubs from his table and overtook with his king!

West, one of the world's great players,